

B. Nephrology Community at Large

1. Outreach Activities.

The Network routinely perform community outreach through presentations to outside organizations, membership on committees of related organizations, Network Web site offerings, Network sponsored WebEx sessions, and learning sessions as detailed throughout this Annual Report.

2. Midwest CKD Coalition.

The Midwest Chronic Kidney Disease Coalition maintained activities during 2009. Begun in 2005, the Midwest CKD Coalition is an alliance of health organizations dedicated to work with the medical community at large to better manage the health and quality of life of patients with chronic kidney disease.

Members included representatives of payer organizations, JCAHO, dialysis provider groups, National Kidney Foundation affiliates, QIOs, industry partners, state departments of health, and The Renal Network.

The Leadership Committee membership included:

Chair	Jay B Wish, MD, University Hospitals of Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio
Vice Chair	Randy Howard, MD, Wellpoint/Anthem, Indianapolis, Indiana
Treasurer	Susan Stark, Executive Director, The Renal Network, Inc.
Secretary	Bonnie Hollopeter, LPN, Ohio KePRO
Sub Chairs	Ron Savrin, MD of Ohio KePRO and Randy Kipling of Genzyme, serve as subcommittee chairs and also on the Leadership Committee.

During 2009, the Coalition met by WebEx as follows:

- May 11, 2009
- August 20, 2009

Projects in process or completed during 2009 include:

- The Web site, www.ckdcoalition.org contains news of the Coalition itself, houses completed Coalition projects, and links to existing resources from other organizations.
- Tool Kit for PICC Line Avoidance. A Task Group working with the Network VAAP developed a tool kit of resources to encourage the limited use of peripherally inserted central catheters (PICC) in CKD patients, in the hospital setting.
 - Cover letter from the Chair outlining the need PICC avoidance

- Algorithm for PICC Avoidance
- FFBI PICC Tools
- Suggested Alternates to PICC
- Literature Search with PICC Avoidance Studies
- PowerPoint to explain the PICC Initiative

The PICC Line Avoidance Tool Kit was pilot tested among volunteer members of the CKD Coalition in October and November. Based on the results of the pilot test, revisions were made to the tool kit, and it was posted to the Network Web site in December. Registration is required to download the materials from the Web site to allow tracking of their use.

3. Liaisons with Allied Organizations.

The Network acts as a resource to the state departments of health within Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio; interactions between the Network and the state health agencies are ongoing. The Network continuously serves as

an expert adviser for the technical aspects of dialysis, a resource for complaints, grievances and facility concerns, and provides Network developed resources when requested. The Network also provides

resources and contacts with other dialysis agencies, such as the National Kidney Foundation and its affiliates, The University of Michigan Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center, the United States Renal Data Service, and the United Network for Organ Sharing.

The Network pursued collaborative activities with a variety of organizations.

- The Executive Director served on the Board of Directors of The Forum of Renal Networks.
- The Network established a routine calendar of conference calls for its staff and members of the state departments of health within Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois. Meetings are held quarterly and provide updates on Network and CMS activities, along with updates from the state organizations. In 2009, calls were held on March 19, June 23, Sept 25, and Dec 17.
- The Assistant Director is a member of the Partners Promoting Quality (PPQ) committee for Health Care Excel, the Indiana QIO, and for the community outreach committee of the fiscal intermediary, Administar Federal.
- The Quality Improvement Director serves as the Network Liaison to the Quality

Measurement and Information Task Force of the Fistula First Breakthrough Initiative.

- The Quality Improvement Director attended the Quality Infrastructure CPM Work Group on February 12 and 13 to advise on the revision of the current CPMs and the development of new CPMs.
- The Executive Director, Assistant Director, Patient Services Director, Quality Improvement Coordinator, and the Data Manager attended the meeting of QualityNet in August.
- The Quality Improvement Director attended the CROWNWeb Clinical Module Meeting in August 6 and 7 to advise on clinical components of CROWNWeb.
- During the 2009 annual meeting, the Network provided exhibit space gratis to renal community organizations including BONENT, National Kidney Foundation-Indiana, National Association of Social Workers-Indiana Chapter, and Northwestern University Department of Transplant.
- The Director of Patient Services and the Director of Communications participated on the FFBI Coalition Patient Self-Management Change Concept

Workgroup and provided an expanded statement of Self-management Change Concept guidelines and protocols including differences between a traditional and collaborative health care delivery system, a self-management change process, approaches for promoting self-cannulation, patient/staff readiness and patient/staff culture as well as an overview of values and principles.

- The Network collaborated with the Renal Support Network on two educational patient meetings, one in Indianapolis and one in Cincinnati.
- The Network collaborated with the National Kidney Foundation to increase awareness of educational material.
- The Network collaborated with National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP) to increase

awareness of its educational materials.

- The Network collaborated with the American Association of Kidney Patients to increase awareness of its educational programs.
- The Network collaborated with the Medical Education Institute to utilize and increase awareness of its educational resources.
- The Patient Services Department collaborated with five other Networks in the identification and development of resources for patients and staff that related to professionalism/communication and safety issues. In addition, the group developed a standardized form to use for patient complaints related to professionalism/communication and safety and developed a pilot program for 2010.