



# CDC Report

Board Meeting ~ Los Angeles

February 2007

In this issue

Below is a report from the California Dialysis Council's Board Meeting held February 16, 2007 in Los Angeles, California.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## REGULATORY REPORT

### NRAA REPORT

### KIDNEY CARE PARTNERS REPORT (KCP)

### NETWORK REPORT

### MEDICARE / MED-CAL REPORT

### PROGRAM REPORT

### OTHER BUSINESS

### NEXT MEETING

### NEXT OPEN BOARD MEETING

## • LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Michael Arnold delivered the legislative report. The introduction of new bills has been very slow this year. Michael stated that the due date for new legislation is February 23, 2007 and he expects a flurry of activity next week. The issue of the day in Sacramento is health care and health care reform. The Governor is not expected to introduce his plan for health care reform separately but to work with legislators. Senator Sheila Kuehl has a single payor initiative as well. Michael distributed the Legislative Status Report with the comment that there is a "spot bill", SB102 that he believes we should watch. A copy of this status report can be found on our website at: [http://www.caldialysis.org/LSR/LSR\\_2-13-07.htm](http://www.caldialysis.org/LSR/LSR_2-13-07.htm)

## • REGULATORY REPORT

Michael Arnold discussed the proposed new fee structure for dialysis facility licensing under the "right-sizing" program in Licensing and Certification. The recommendation is that the annual fee increase from the current \$1500 per year to \$3524.27 per year as we have been bundled into a group of specialty clinics. This new fee is more than \$1000 greater than previously expected. Michael has tried to contact the Department of Health and has had no response. He reported that this is a first effort and that the final product will go to the budget sub-committee and then into the budget in June or July. He additionally stated that the revenue from income tax is \$1.2 billion less than expected and coupled with other deficit areas, there is expected to be \$4 billion less revenue than planned. The Governor will not raise taxes

---

## Quick Links...

- [Our Website](#)
- [Meeting](#)

## Information

so the issue will be which areas receive reductions in funding. After much discussion, the following motion was made, seconded and adopted.

Move that Michael Arnold survey other specialty clinics that will be affected by this proposed increase to ascertain whether there is support for the concept that this fee increase should not be implemented based on the fact that these licensure and certification surveys are health and safety matters that should be covered under the General Fund as opposed to services for the specialty clinic for which the clinic should pay. Michael will report back to the Board in April with the result of the above survey. Michael also asked the Board if they would like for him to pursue an increase in Medi-Cal reimbursement rates. He reminded the Board that California is in the top three for Medi-Cal/Medicaid reimbursement rates nationally. It was suggested that, as a long-term goal, when Medicare adopts an annual market-basket increase for dialysis, we should pursue similar changes in California. It was decided that for the time being, we should continue with our current rate. Cindy LaMunyon will prepare a comparison between Medicare and Medi-Cal reimbursement rates.

### • **NRAA REPORT**

The bundled rate for reimbursement is being watched carefully and NRAA is preparing a white paper on the topic so their thoughts might be heard during the decision making process. NRAA believes that small providers will be hurt by the bundled rate unless some changes are programmed in. The white paper should be out in about a month. The purpose of the white paper is for the renal community to have a voice in the rules around bundling since it seems clear that it will happen.

Cindy reminded attendees that the NRAA Annual Spring Meeting is going to be held in Washington, D.C. May 15-16, 2007. The "Day-on-the-Hill" is scheduled for the afternoon of the 15th. The program content is not yet set.

NRAA has a new "Job Board" which is a career link through the internet. It is a service similar to Monster.com. Currently, there is a 20% discount for those using the service in addition to a discount for NRAA members. A large volume discount is also available. The service is free to the jobseeker and the employer pays the fee. The service went live on September 1, 2006 and the fee is \$199 per position per month. It is located on the [www.nraa.org](http://www.nraa.org) website under "NRAA Career" link.

### • **KIDNEY CARE PARTNERS REPORT (KCP)**

Sue Vogel and Marc Chow reported that there will be a KCP meeting at the end of February for the 2007 version of the Kidney Care Quality and Education Act. They

reminded the membership that CapWiz is available on the NRAA website for all, not just NRAA members, to use in contacting their elected representatives.

## • NETWORK REPORT

Doug Marsh delivered the Network #18 report.

- Network #18 has a fistula rate of 49.1% which exceeds the CMS goal. Two years from now, the required rate will increase to 60%.
- The Network has a vascular access special project in place with the DaVita Inland Empire facilities to increase their fistula rates.
- The Network also has put a transplant referral project in place in an effort to increase transplant rates.
- Emergency preparedness is the major CMS focus at this time. Network #18 has been working with six Innovative Dialysis Systems (IDS) facilities to develop an emergency preparedness plan that will be made available to other IDS facilities. Doug thanked those facilities for their participation in the project
- ESRD surveyor training is being conducted in San Diego next week. FMS has volunteered facilities for the training. Fistula First will be a major focus in the training and surveyors will be asking facilities questions regarding their rates of septicemia and hospital admissions relative to vascular access.
- The Network #18 evaluation by CMS will be conducted March 19-21.
- The annual data survey is in process and clinic data is coming in better than in the past.
- CMS is working hard on electronic data transfer. They are looking for volunteer facilities to be beta sites for the transfer. This will require manual data entry into the web site.

## • MEDICARE / MED-CAL REPORT

Cindy LaMunyon reported to the Board.

*Medicare* ~ UGS did not load the 4th quarter 2006 ASP file which resulted in all drugs being paid at the third quarter values. As an example, EPO was reimbursed at three cents less per unit than appropriate. UGS will make mass adjustments to correct this. Nationally, the fiscal intermediaries inconsistently applied the ESRD Network fee effective January 1, 2007. CMS is troubleshooting the issue and mass adjustments will be made in this case as well.

Email: [mail@caldialysis.org](mailto:mail@caldialysis.org)

Website:

<http://www.caldialysis.org>

Tel: 928-717-1156

There has been significant confusion regarding the two different formulas for calculating the weight of a double amputee released by CMS. The Federal Register states

that the multiplier is 1.15% of post amputation weight. The CMS Change Request states the multiplier is 1.5% of the post amputation weight. CMS is aware of the discrepancy and as not yet released any instructions to the community regarding clarification. NRAA continues to attempt to get clarification.

*Medi-Cal* ~ Medi-Cal has agreed to adopt the new EPO Q-code; the expected release is the end of the first quarter 2007. Watch for the announcement in the Medi-Cal Bulletin. NPI becomes effective May 23, 2007 for Medicare and most other providers. Providers can continue to register their NPI number with Medi-Cal until May 23rd as well. Medi-Cal will accept both versions of the UB92 and UB04 between 4/23- 6/23/2007. After 6/23/07, only the UB04 will be accepted.

## • PROGRAM REPORT

The Program Committee has finalized the 2007 CDC Annual Meeting program which will be held at the Hotel Zoso (the old Marquis Hotel) in Palm Springs April 26-28. The Program Brochure will be emailed to the membership latter this week.

## • OTHER BUSINESS

1. Sue Vogel reported that Lori Hartwell's group, Renal Support Network (RSN) is again being recognized. This time a "reality" show is championing her cause. The show, named NASCAR Angels, helps people who help other people by making repairs to their automobile to ensure that person can continue to lend a hand to others. They have chosen one of the RSN's long-term volunteers, Rhonda Brooks, and the community is invited to attend. The filming will take place in Glendale on Wednesday, February 21, 2007.
2. Tony Messana stated that his organization has experienced that those patients receiving a transplant under the provisions of Permanent Residence Under Color of Law (PRUCOL), have been losing their Medi-Cal coverage following the transplant, fallout from the Deficit Reduction Act.

## • NEXT MEETING

The "Legislative Day-on-the-Hill" meeting will be held at the Sutter Club in Sacramento on March 27, 2007. There will be no Board Meeting preceding the briefing by Michael Arnold. People planning to attend should call ahead to schedule a visit with their Legislator.

**More information regarding this event will be emailed to the membership shortly**

## • NEXT OPEN BOARD MEETING

May 18, 2007 ~ Sacramento

For more information and a registration form, please visit  
our web site at: [www.caldialysis.org/next\\_meeting.htm](http://www.caldialysis.org/next_meeting.htm)

[Forward email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to mail@caldialysis.org, by [mail@caldialysis.org](mailto:mail@caldialysis.org)  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Powered by



California Dialysis Council | 1904 Naomi Place | Prescott | AZ | 86303