



CDC Report

Board Meeting ~ Palm Springs

April 2008

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Below is a report from the California Dialysis Council's Closed Board Meeting held April 24, 2008 just prior to the 26th Annual Educational Conference in Palm Springs, California.

Mike Arnold delivered the legislative report.

Proposed Legislation: Pilot Project for Community Based Intervention and Preventative Care in the Treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease distributed. How to proceed will be addressed by appointed subcommittee. (Marc Chow and Dr. Raffi Minasian)

DRAFT Medi-Cal ESRD Savings: An Alternate Approach document reviewed. To be kept confidential - FYI status only and no Board action required. Issue has to do with legislative strategy and tactics on the Medi-Cal provider rate cut.

Our Corporate Partners

The logo for Amgen, consisting of the word "AMGEN" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

[Visit Amgen's Website](#)

The logo for Watson Nephrology, featuring the text "Watson Nephrology" in a blue, sans-serif font, with a small circular icon containing a stylized 'W' to the right. Below the main text, in a smaller font, is the tagline "A Specialty Group of Watson Pharma, Inc."

[Visit Watson Nephrology's](#)

State Budget will grow to \$12-13B by May Revision-maybe more. No legislative action on 10% Medi-Cal cuts which will be effective July 1, 2008. AB 214 on Senate Floor (Dialysis in SNF) could be amended to serve as vehicle to prevent cuts to dialysis services. Sen. Patty Burg looking at identifying what services have the possibility of shifting costs and which do not. Dialysis saves money when patients avoid hospitalization costs. Multi-pronged strategy currently in process to prevent cuts.

SB 1474 dropped. We are very pleased to report that a coordinated strategy by all CDC members has resulted in stopping a very bad bill for the dialysis community. SB 1474 would have placed many duplicative and

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expensive requirements in place for dialysis clinics. Satellite Dialysis met with their Senator, Elaine Alquist, and helped to convince her to drop this negative legislative proposal which had been drafted by well meaning staff members who were working on the basis of bad information and a lack of knowledge about the dialysis community. Representatives of Da Vita, FMC and many other CDC members all worked in combination to achieve this result. Congratulations to all who participated in this important effort!

The Legislative Status Report was reviewed which is available on CDC website at: http://www.caldialysis.org/status_report.htm. Accessing in this manner allows you to link directly to the whole bill.

• **REGULATORY REPORT**

Karen Dyer discussed California Department of Public Health letter dated March 25, 2008 regarding: Medicare Certification Surveys. Tier 3 status should prevail based on Appendix A: CMS Priorities for Initial Surveys of Providers and Suppliers Newly Enrolling in Medicare. The State letter appears to have misinterpreted this information. A motion was made to recommend that Kidney Care Partners (KCP) meet with CMS to clarify with States the intent of their priorities; and for the CDC to meet with the State regulators to request a more correct interpretation of the CMS memorandum. Motion presented, seconded and approved.

• **FEDERAL ISSUES UPDATE**

Marc Chow presented report.

1) CDC will begin sending out the "Make Your Voice Heard to Congress" petition which is being done by the Kidney Care Partners. It has come to our attention that the form does have a check mark for the individual completing the petition to check off if they would like to be included in future grassroots activities. A discussion about the importance of this check mark box and if the CDC would want it's members to be directly contacted by the KCP or through the CDC. Since we want this petition to be used ASAP, the box will remain, but people should be aware of it's meaning.

2) Medicare legislation will need to move this year by the end of June in order to fix the short 6 month extension to a proposed MD fix of 10%. The House passed the CHAMP Act which included ESRD provisions for a bundled payment system to begin in 2010. The Senate stayed silent on the issue and no language was seen. The house stands by their CHAMP Act provisions for ESRD and the Senate is working on their own

language for potential inclusion in a Medicare package. At the moment, the ESRD community is focusing on meetings with the Senate.

- **MEDICARE / MEDI-CAL REPORT**

Nothing to report

- **PROGRAM REPORT**

With on-site registrations the total attendance was 257.

A full report will be given at the next Board Meeting see below.

- **NEXT OPEN BOARD MEETING**

May 16, 2008 ~ Oakland

Email: mail@caldialysis.org

Website:

<http://www.caldialysis.org>

Tel: 928-717-1156

For more information and a registration form, please visit our web site at:

www.caldialysis.org/next_meeting.htm

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