



CDC Report

Board Meeting ~ Los Angeles

November 2009

In this issue

[LEGISLATIVE REPORT](#)

[PCT EXAM REPORT](#)

[PATIENT ORGANIZATIONS
REPORT](#)

[FEDERAL ISSUES REPORT](#)

[COMMUNICATIONS
REPORT](#)

[ESRD NETWORK REPORT](#)

[MEDICARE REPORT](#)

[PROGRAM REPORT](#)

[OTHER BUSINESS](#)

[NEXT BOARD MEETING](#)

Below is a brief report from the California Dialysis Council's Board Meeting held November 20, 2009 in Los Angeles, California. For **CURRENT NEWS** regarding the ESRD community, please visit our web site news page at: <http://www.californiadialysis.org/news.html>

• LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mike Arnold, delivered the following legislative report: The legislative session ended on September 11, 2009. Mike reviewed the Legislative Highlights for 2009. This is available on our web site by [clicking here](#). He also referenced The Legislative Status Report which is also available on the CDC website by [clicking here](#). Accessing in this manner allows you to link directly to the whole bill.

SB 221: Which repeals the previously enacted home dialysis law as this has only caused confusion in interpreting the language with regulatory bodies. This paves the way for better clarification as it relates the provision of dialysis services in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs). A lengthy discussion ensued related to the current practices in the Skilled Nursing Facilities.

SB112 - Created an alternative pathway for California Hemodialysis Technician Certification. More information on its implementation will be discussed in the CDC PCT Exam session.

Our Corporate
Partners

Mike also briefly stated that 2010 will again be a tough budget year for California and we will have to continue to be vigilant.

Lori Hartwell brought up the issue of MediGap coverage for dialysis patients under 65. It was agreed that this



[Visit Abbott's Website](#)



[Visit Amgen's Website](#)



[Visit Watson's Website](#)

Quick Links...

- [Our Website](#)
- [Meeting Information](#)
- [News Updates](#)

could be potential legislation for 2010. Lori Hartwell motioned, seconded by Marc Chow that the California Dialysis Council will draft MediGap Legislation for introduction in the 2010 legislative session and that staff will bring that draft to the Board at the January meeting. Background research will be done on the recently passed Florida MediGap bill and cooperation from other interested organizations.

• PCT EXAM REPORT

Yesterday, November 19, 2009 we held our first PCT Exam session here in Los Angeles. Sixty (60) patient care technicians took the exam. Results should be available within a week and will be posted on our web site at: http://www.californiadialysis.org/pct_certs.html.

Since this meeting the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has distributed clear instructions for the certification/Recertification of California Hemodialysis Technicians. These instructions were sent in an "All Facilities Letter" (AFL) to all dialysis facilities, training programs and to the address on file of all 5,000 CHTs in California. A copy of the AFL was also distributed by CDC as a News Update on December 1st and can be found on our web site by [clicking here](#)

• PATIENT ORGANIZATIONS REPORT

Lori Hartwell presented the following: The primary focus of all patient organizations at the moment has been to prepare to respond to the CMS Proposed Rule on the ESRD Prospective Payment System. Lori reviewed a number of issues of concern specifically for patients such as the proposed increase in co-payments and in general terms the potential limitation access to care and services. The lack of quality indicators is also a major concern for patients.

Lori mentioned that the no charge RSN Renal Teen Prom is scheduled for Sunday, January 17, 2010 in Sherman Oaks, so if providers have patients between 14 and 24 they are invited. [More info....](#)

There will also be a free of charge Patient Lifestyle Meeting in Anaheim on February 21, 2010. [More info..](#)

• FEDERAL ISSUES REPORT

Marc Chow briefly reviewed the current status of various industry organizations that are preparing comments on CMS Proposed Rule on the ESRD Prospective Payment System which should all be finalized within the next few weeks in preparation for the CMS comment period deadline of December 16, 2009. The main issues continue to be oral medications, case mix adjusters and

clinical lab services. There are a number legal challenges to CMSs legal authority to go beyond the statutory authority given by MIPPA. Also, the proposed inadequate funding of services such as lab and medications is a major concern. Marc referred to the resource document on the CDC web site that can be found by [clicking here](#).

• COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Dr. Bryan Wong reiterated the issues in trying to get physician content for the physician resources section. That being that organizations want to keep content on their own site so as to drive up their own traffic. Mike Paget reported that the PCT resources section continues to be updated along with information on the CMS Proposed Rule.

• ESRD NETWORK REPORT

Harriet Edwards reported on current Network Activities. Network 18 has hired a new Quality Improvement Director, Mr. Shean Strong, MBA. Mr. Strong started with the Network on November 9, 2009. Shean comes to NW 18 with a strong Quality Improvement background.

Network 18 is reviewing the End - Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System. Network 18's Board of Directors is also reviewing the proposed ESRD Redesign Findings and Recommendations.

Network 18 department directors will be attending the QualityNet conference in Baltimore MD, November 30, 2009 - December 3, 2009.

CrownWeb Phase II is proceeding; at this point of time, there is no final date announced for the full implementation of Crown Web. We will let everyone know once the launch date for full implementation is announced by CMS.

• MEDICARE REPORT

Guest member Catalina Ramirez, Palmetto/GBA Ombudsman discussed the MACtoberfest that was held in Las Vegas on October 29 - 30, 2009 was a tremendous success with over 500 attendees. Catalina reported on the Palmetto program coming out in January called the provider online services program. Once launched providers will be able to check claims status and eligibility of patients along with provider financial status online. The next phase will provide appeals status and direct data entry. Webinars will be provided to providers. Check the Palmetto web site at: www.palmettogba.com for more information.

Email: mail@californiadialysis.org

Web site:

<http://www.californiadialysis.org>

Tel: 928-717-1156

- **PROGRAM REPORT**

Dates for next year are April 22-24, 2010 at the Hotel Zoso. The program is nearly completed and should be finalized during next week's committee conference call. Ads have been produced ready for publication.

- **OTHER BUSINESS**

Future Board Meeting materials will be emailed to registered participants the Wednesday before the meeting. Only the agenda will be provided on site. Options exist to print and bring paper copies or bring a personal computer and review the documents during the meeting. This will cut down on the copies, many of which are just left on the table after the meeting.

- **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

January 16, 2010 ~ Oakland

For more information, on-line registration and hard copy registration forms, please visit our web site at:

www.californiadialysis.org/next_board_meeting.html

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

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

Email Marketing by



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