



# CDC Report

Board Meeting ~ Palm Springs

April 2010

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Below is a brief report from the California Dialysis Council's Closed Board Meeting held April 22, 2010 in Palm Spring, California. For **CURRENT NEWS** regarding the ESRD community, please visit our web site news page at: <http://www.californiadialysis.org/news.html>

## • LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Michael Arnold delivered the following legislative report: It appears that increasing personal income and resultant taxes will help reduce the budget deficit by \$4 billion in additional revenue and reduce the deficit to approximately \$14 billion. The Governor's May Revise will focus on suggested ways to further reduce this deficit. (Update: predictions were wrong! We still have a \$19.1 Billion budget deficit.)

The recent successful court cases provide optimism that Medi-Cal cuts will not be presented as a solution this time around. The last Medi-Cal check write in June will once again be delayed to July 2010. (This a permanent delay.) In addition, one more June check write will be pushed into July this summer. Thus, companies should brace for a cash flow slow down in June. The delay of the additional check write is not permanent and will not occur next year unless the budget deficits continue.

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New York and New Jersey have instituted Office of Medicaid Inspector General Offices to collect on Medicaid fraud. California already has a robust fraud and abuse office. More resources are going to be put into this effort this year.

Key bills of interest to CDC this year relate to transplantation and organ donation. We are supporting SB 1395, a bill which seeks to improve the organ donation program in California. Otherwise, it's all about the State budget and protecting patient benefits and provider rates under the Medi-Cal program.



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## Quick Links...

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

The Legislative Status Report is available on the CDC website by [clicking here](#). Accessing in this manner allows you to link directly to the whole bill.

### • REGULATORY REPORT

Karen Dyer attended the Health Care Compliance Association's Conference in Dallas this month. She shared information that RAC (Recovery Audit Contractor), a private organization funded to review over and under-payments for Medicare (especially in regards to hospital billing), will now be working in the Medicaid area. These investigations can be up to a rolling 3 year period, with October, 2007, as a start date.

Dr. Carol DiRaimondo discussed issues from the CAC meeting she attended. Fraud and Abuse issues were discussed. Physician offices must maintain signature logs and detailed documentation on lab ordering. An original physician signature is required to send any order (lab, radiology) accompanied by a date and time the order was written.

A discussion was undertaken regarding transportation approval for ambulance transport; It was recommended that physicians assure that documentation is completed correctly.

### • PATIENT ORGANIZATIONS REPORT

Presented by Lori Hartwell:

It is currently unknown how health care reform will affect the coverage of immunosuppressant drugs.

A discussion took place about the latest information distribution required by those administering Epogen® to patients. ASPIRE enrollment is limited to those patients whose anemia is a result of receiving chemotherapy for cancer. Dr. Raffi Minasian composed a letter that was distributed to the physicians on the Board.

The FDA is providing direction that dialysis centers need to distribute the drug information sheet once per month and must record the distribution. Supposedly this information is on the FDA website but no one has seen this in writing. As of now, it appears to be verbal communication. CKD patients are not exempt

### • PCT EXAM REPORT

Mike Paget presented the report:

The backlog of processing applications by the State has been resolved. New certifications will not be issued. There are two way that providers can check certification status. The first is the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system at 916-327-2445, which is updated instantly, and the second is to access the CDPH website at: <http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/cvl/Search>

[hPage.aspx.](#)

Lori reminded the Board that patients (current dialysis and transplant) might make good candidates for PCTs. There are several vocational rehab avenues to help support this path should anyone be interested.

## • **FEDERAL ISSUES REPORT**

Marc Chow presented the report.

It is proposed that a one year GAO study be undertaken to assess including oral medications in the bundle. The final rule is expected to be released late May or early June. It is important to work with legislators to support delaying the inclusion of oral medications into the bundle. The following are the main issues of concern regarding the bundle:

1. Inclusion of oral medications
2. Case mix adjustors (particularly race inclusion)
3. Labs are looking for well defined list related to ESRD, but indication is that CMS views this as a small piece.
4. Quality piece appears to be final but will be held until final rule is out

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1. Inclusion of oral medications
2. Case mix adjustors/co-morbidities
  - Inclusion of race adjuster???
3. Lab
  - Concerns with the patient's 20% co-insurance responsibility (Currently ESRD beneficiaries are not responsible for paying the co-insurance for laboratory tests)
  - ESRD community strongly in favor that CMS will include a defined list of laboratory tests that are for the "treatment of ESRD"
4. The proposed QIP rule appears to be ready for release, but maybe delayed until the final ESRD PPS Rule is released.

## • **MEDICARE REPORT**

Misha Palecek stated nothing additional to report. Other issues were already reported by Drs DiRaimondo and Paukert.

## • **PROGRAM REPORT**

The 2011 CDC Annual Educational Conference will be held in Palm Springs from April 14 - 16, 2011

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Web site:

<http://www.californiadialysis.org>

Tel: 928-717-1156

## • **OTHER BUSINESS**

All 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**

May 21, 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](http://www.californiadialysis.org/next_board_meeting.html)

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