



# CDC Report

Board Meeting ~ Sacramento

March 2010

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Below is a brief report from the California Dialysis Council's Board Meeting held March 16, 2010 in Sacramento, 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: Difficulties have been experienced in Los Angeles County with timely certification surveys. If anyone is experiencing similar issues with timeliness of such surveys, let Mike Arnold know and he will bring this to the attention of California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

The Medi-Cal program experienced difficulty with the new entity that was selected to process claims. That seems to be smoothed out, but once again, if new problems crop up, please bring such issues to Mike Arnold.

The issue of allowing dialysis in Nursing Homes by CDPH seems resolved. CMS still needs to address the issue as a whole, but this is not expected to happen anytime soon.

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.

## • PCT EXAM REPORT

Mike Paget presented the report : Some California CHTs are having problems proving they have been trained as required when submitting paperwork to CDPH to be re-certified by April 15, 2010. CDPH is telling CHTs to submit anyway, as in most cases CDPH will have this information on file from the

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previous submission. If the CHT does not have proof - the applicant should write in where they were trained and the approximate date of training.

The first CDC PCT Exam was administered in November, 2009, and since then there have been a total of 1,040 exams taken. The pass rate is 51.4%. Some applicants are on their 5th attempt.

There is no clear answer from CMS as to what will happen to those PCTs who have not passed a national exam. The Interpretive Guidelines imply that the PCT must cease work for 18 months. A nebulous response from the Survey & Certification group in Baltimore was discussed.

If a PCT was on a Military Service (LOA) or a genuine medical LOA, that time would extend the 18 month deadline.

A group from CDC will be meeting with CDPH later in the afternoon today to discuss how they will handle those PCTs who have not been re-certified as of the deadline of April 15th.

No analysis has been made to determine which group of questions applicants most frequently miss. Integrity of questions is, however, reviewed at each sitting

## • **FEDERAL ISSUES REPORT**

Marc Chow presented the report. Healthcare Reform is in the reconciliation process. A vote is expected this Friday or Saturday. The issue of oral medications in regards to bundling is still in limbo. It appears a possible GAO study will be done, then after 2 years, a rule-making process would be implemented. Savings could be used to extend transplant immunosuppressive drug coverage.

In regards to bundling in general, there is a grassroots effort to contact members to push the legislature to start with a pilot project. All are encouraged to access CapWiz to send letters. CDC will send an email to all members containing a link to promote participation.

## • **MEDICARE REPORT**

The Palmetto Advisory Committee will meet in April (their quarterly meeting) and Carol will represent the interests of CDC.

## • **MEDI-CAL REPORT**

Tom Paukert pointed out that Medi-Cal managed care agencies do require TARs. These entities are semi-autonomous and don't need to follow all the Medi-Cal rules.

It was mentioned that Medi-Cal has recently begun to

deny Medicare secondary payments for physician services, as Medicare pays more than Medi-Cal would pay. It was pointed out that this is the general approach that Medi-Cal has always taken and not a new practice.

- **PROGRAM REPORT**

Dates for the Annual Educational Conference are April 22-24, 2010 at the Palm Springs Hotel Zoso. A copy of the Conference Brochure is available on the CDC web site by [clicking here](#). Registration is also available on line. Hard copy versions of the brochure have been mailed to all California facilities and CDC members.

- **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 OPEN BOARD MEETING**

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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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