



# CDC Report

September 2010

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Board Meeting ~ Los Angeles

Below is a brief report from the California Dialysis Council's Board Meeting held in Los Angeles on September 17, 2010. For **CURRENT NEWS** regarding the ESRD community, please visit our web site news page [for more information...](#)

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### Our Corporate Partners



## Legislative Report

*Michael Arnold*

Michael Arnold delivered the legislative report: California still does not have a State Budget and many healthcare providers, including dialysis facilities, are feeling the pinch of not receiving reimbursement. There is no end in sight at this point in time. State employees are being paid as well as large institutional providers. Will continue to be vigilant to ensure that nothing is proposed that will impact dialysis industry.

AB 2352, the Organ Transplant Immunosuppression Coverage bill supported by the CDC has passed the legislature and is on the Governor's desk awaiting signature. This bill requires Medi-Cal beneficiaries to remain eligible to receive Medi-Cal coverage for anti-rejection medication for up to two years following an organ transplant. The bill involves a cost to the state, so there is no guarantee that it will be signed.

SB 1395 sponsored by the Governor and Senator Alquist has been signed and will go into law on January 1, 2011. This bill authorizes the creation of a not-for-profit entity to be designated as the Altruistic Living Donor Registrar and authorizes the establishment and maintenance of the Altruistic Living Donor Registry for persons who would like to identify themselves as kidney donors during their lifetime. The Department of Motor Vehicles is required to include on an application for a new or renewal driver's license or identification card, a space for the applicant to give his or her consent to be an organ or tissue donor upon death. Lori Hartwell discussed that while this is a good start, the goal should be to incorporate such an approach on a national level.

The Legislative Status Report is available as always on the CDC website at: [http://www.californiadialysis.org/legislative\\_status.html](http://www.californiadialysis.org/legislative_status.html). Accessing in this manner allows you to link directly to the whole bill.

## Federal Issues ~ ESRD PPS Presentation

Marc Chow / Cindy LaMunyon

Marc Chow and Cindy LaMunyon presented and discussed a PowerPoint Presentation on the soon to be enacted ESRD Prospective Payment System. A few of the items discussed were:

- **Claims Line Item Billing:** It will be very important for CMS to get information on medication practice patterns. Concern was expressed that since payment will not change, providers may not necessarily spend time to make sure this is accurate.
- **Non-Dialysis Labs:** The lab will be responsible for billing non dialysis labs, not the provider. It is not clear how the lab will deal with the 20% co-pay that will now be required from patients.
- **Case Mix Adjuster:** A Case Mix adjuster is in place for the first 120 days, but unless the patient goes on home dialysis, this will have a limited impact since in most cases Medicare does not go into effect until after 90 days.
- **Start of Dialysis:** Date of dialysis will be determined by what is on the 2728.
- **Low Volume Adjuster:** For those clinics that perform less than 4000 treatments/year, there is a low volume adjuster of 18.9%. The historical time frame will be up until 12/31/10.
- **Race & Gender:** No adjustment for race or gender. Further analysis of race and ethnicity is anticipated for future rule making. Currently, no adjustments for race exist in any Medicare reimbursement program.
- **NRAA Rate Calculator:** A rate calculator and more slides are available on the NRAA website [www.nraa.org](http://www.nraa.org) under 'Hot Topics.' The calculator is available to both members and non-members.
- **Letter from CMS:** CMS is reported to be sending a letter to the States explaining the new bundle, but to date no one has seen this letter. There could be a potential impact on Medi-Cal as a secondary payor and the recommendation was given to stay vigilant on this issue but take a cautious approach to ensure that the state will not see increased costs.
- **Vaccines and blood storage** are excluded from PPS.

Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel



*“Save the date for the  
29<sup>th</sup> CDC Annual Educational  
Conference”*

*April 14 ~ 16, 2011*



**Iris, do I clamp before or after?**

*In Memory of Peter Quaife  
Dec 1943 ~ June 2010  
Kidney Patient/Cartoonist*

## PCT Exam Report

*Mike Paget*

Mike Paget reported that on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 147 PCTs took the exam in Los Angeles, and that most of them were new trainee PCTs.

Mike reported that the CDC office continues to receive a significant number of calls from out of state CHTs and providers about the requirements for reciprocity for Nationally Certified Hemodialysis Technicians coming from other states to work in California. In light of this the FAQ section of the web site has been updated to highlight the California requirements. Visit the CDC web site at:

[http://www.californiadialysis.org/CHT\\_FAQ.html](http://www.californiadialysis.org/CHT_FAQ.html).

## Federal Issues Report

*Marc Chow*

Marc Chow discussed the CMS Quality Incentive Program the withhold payment system if a clinic does not meet the prescribed outcomes. There is concern how this will affect the smaller clinics where poor outcomes on one or two patients will have a much bigger effect on the clinic. A discussion took place on the impact on patients' rights in the event they want their Hgb to remain > 12g/dL and not have their ESA held to keep Hgb below 12g/dL. As well, current literature supports not giving oncology patients ESAs.

## Grassroots Committee Report

*Sean Graham*

Sean Graham reported that some transportation companies are having a difficult time remaining in business with the delay in Medi-Cal reimbursement. At some point, a concerted effort to resolve this may be required.

### California Dialysis Council

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## Other Business

Mike Paget reviewed the proposed date for 2011 Board meetings as follows:

- January 21 ~ Oakland
- February 18 ~ Los Angeles
- March ?? ~ Sacramento *Board Meeting and Legislative Day*
- April 14 to 16 ~ Palm Springs (Closed Meeting)
- May 20 ~ Oakland
- June 17 ~ Los Angeles
- July ~ No on-site meeting
- August 19 ~ Oakland
- September 16 ~ Los Angeles
- October 21 ~ Oakland
- November 18 ~ Los Angeles
- December ~ No on-site meeting

These are the usual third Fridays of the month, with the exception of April and possibly March.

## Next Board Meeting

October 15, 2010 ~ Oakland

**Open to Members and Guests**

For more information, on-line registration and hard copy registration forms, please visit our web site at: [www.californiadialysis.org](http://www.californiadialysis.org)