



CDC Report

January 2011

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Board Meeting ~ Oakland

Below is a brief report from the California Dialysis Council's Board Meeting held in Oakland on January 21, 2011. 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. Governor Brown has been sworn in. He is receiving rave reviews from the press for delivering an honest budget which includes \$12.5 billion in cuts, \$12 B in increased taxes and \$1.9 B in other solutions to close the gap. The revenue component of the budget calls for an election this coming June where voters will be asked to continue current personal income and sales taxes, as well as the Vehicle License Fee rate, for five years. Brown said revenue from the sales tax and the vehicle license fee will be transferred directly to local governments to finance the first phase of his realignment plan. The budget also proposes to change the role that state and local governments play in local development activities by eliminating state tax benefits for enterprise zones and phasing out the current funding mechanism for redevelopment agencies. This will return billions of dollars in property tax revenues to schools, cities and counties and help pay for public safety, education and other services. A 10% reduction in Medi-Cal provider reimbursement is once again on the table as well as additional level of service cuts in the program, such as limiting the number of prescriptions and applying co-pays to various services.

Talking Points have been developed and distributed for members to use when calling their state legislators to protest the cuts. It was recommended that spending a day in Sacramento to lobby against the cuts could be helpful before the March committee meetings. February 23rd was selected as the tentative date and more information will be distributed.

Misha Palecek discussed the California Home Dialysis Initiative as another approach to attempt to carve out the dialysis providers from the 10% rate cut. A motion was presented, seconded and approved, to proceed to convene a meeting with high level CDPH officials to discuss this in Sacramento.

The Legislative Status Report is available as always on the CDC website at: 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

Marc Chow reviewed the Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Final Rule for ESRD payment consequences that begins January 1, 2012. He highlighted the Quality Measures, Performance Standards, Performance Scores, Payment Reductions and Unit of Payment. He also reviewed the public reporting process. A discussion ensued regarding the future of QIP and possible future additional measures such as: Iron Management, Bone Mineral Metabolism, Vascular Access, Kt/V, Access Infection Rate, Fluid Weight Management, and Pediatric Measures.

ESRD Network Report

Allison Kregness

Allison Kregness presented a report for Network 17 and gave a report on the recent CMS ESRD Network meeting held in Baltimore. This was the first meeting with the new CMS Administrator, Dr. Donald Berwick. Allison reported that under this new administrator a number of programs are being reviewed and even being put on hold including CROWNWeb. While at the meeting in Baltimore, Network 17 was presented an award as the Network for having the most outstanding Fistula First Program. The take-away from this meeting was that the CMS focus is undoubtedly on quality.

In addressing the ProPublica article on state facility surveys, the Network had met with the California Department of Health who reported that they have allocated additional resources to these surveys and will have a special focus on infection control.

PCT Exam Report

Mike Paget

Mike Paget reported that another exam session took place yesterday with 45 participants sitting for the exam. Of these, 94% were students and not previously certified hemodialysis technicians. As projected, the number of PCT exam applicants has started to decline. An additional exam session has been added in Los Angeles in March; otherwise, there would have been no exam scheduled in Los Angeles from February to June 2011.

The Patient Care Technician Certification FAQ section of the CDC web site has been updated to highlight the California requirements. Visit the CDC web site at:

http://www.californiadialysis.org/CHT_FAQ.html.

Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel



*“Save the date for the
29th CDC Annual Educational
Conference”*

April 14 ~ 16, 2011



Meet Mr. Bates, our perfect patient. He controls his fluid levels by not drinking and his potassium, cholesterol and phosphates by not eating.

In Memory of Peter Quaife

Dec 1943 ~ June 2010

Kidney Patient/Cartoonist

Communications Committee Report

Mike Paget

Mike Paget reported that the Council was approached by investigative reporter Robin Fields of ProPublica to comment on the lack of timely facility certifications in California. Dr. Paukert, Dr. Minasian, Mike Arnold and Mike Paget met with Robin Fields via telephone conference on December 8, 2010. Robin had previously provided the questions that she was going to ask, stayed on topic, and followed up with Mike Paget by discussing the actual article prior to it being published in ProPublica on December 28, 2010.

Regulatory Report

Karen Dyer

Mary Brattich brought up two issues regarding California certification of PCTs. The first is that the Department is stating that the required 30 CEUs must be obtained during the active period of a CHT's certification even though the bill states that an employee has up to two years to renew their certification after it has expired. A case can be made that it is even more important for a PCT to keep their certification current if they take a leave of absence from work. Mike Arnold requested that this information be forwarded to him for further possible action. The second issue is how the State deals with PCTs who enter California from out of state, requiring them to repeat the entire training program, even if they have passed one of the other National tests. The Board felt that this was not a good time to discuss this with the State.

Paul Beyer from Satellite Labs discussed the impact that the Bundle will have on ESRD labs. The rules are not clear and different interpretations from various intermediaries exist. 90% of lab tests currently done are in bundle. However, 75% of ICD-9 codes are ESRD related and 25% are not. The bill from the lab has to be sent to clinics to be included on their bills, but the lab cannot bill the clinic until the test is released. It is projected that on average, labs will receive 30% less revenue and in many cases more is spent on client supplies, shipping, and other expenses besides running the actual test. A concern exists that this could drive some labs out of business and impact small clinics and those in rural areas.

California Dialysis Council

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Next Board Meeting

February 18, 2011 ~ Los Angeles

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