



CDC Report

September 16, 2011

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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 16, 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.

The Legislature has adjourned for three months. No major bills regarding healthcare were introduced in the last hours. There were several bills introduced regarding the insurance market, but the Governor asked the legislators not to move forward on these until the Health Insurance Exchange is more fully established. Those bills were put on hold. The Governor has until October 9, 2011 to sign or veto the many bills on his desk. It is highly likely that the Governor will call the Legislature back for a Special Session to address the eroding state budget. The current budget assumes approximately \$4B in revenue that is not likely to appear. The funds taken from the redevelopment agencies are no longer available due to favorable court ruling that preserves their funds. \$2B in savings is being counted on from the 10% Medi-Cal cuts. A trigger measure is in place that if revenues come in \$1B less than the budget, there are cuts that are automatically implemented in education and Health and Human Services. Michael then proceeded to point out some bills of interest to the Council that are on the Governor's desk.

The Legislative Status Report was provided and is available 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.

Medi-Cal Managed Care: Multiple problematic issues are being experienced. Transportation services for patients are being disrupted. Patients are being dropped from the transplant lists. Mike Arnold will work with the Network and providers that are having issues. Los Angeles County seems to have the most issues at this time.

Licensure Fee Increase: Mike Arnold reported that there is no new information to report. We will keep this topic on the agenda.

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Legislative Report

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California Health Benefits Exchange (CHBEX): The five members have been appointed to this newly formed committee. Peter Lee has accepted the Executive Director position. He comes from CMS and will begin his new position on October 17, 2011. Once he takes office, it will be appropriate to have direct contact with him regarding the Medicare Coordination of Benefits (COB) issue.

Medi-Cal Reduction: CMS should have a decision by the end of September. However, if CMS requests further information from California, then the 90 day time frame to respond will begin again. It is believed that the proposed cut will extend to Medi/Medi payments as well.

Regulatory Report

Karen Dyer

Presented by Karen Dyer who reminded the membership that as part of the Medicare fraud prevention initiative, providers and physicians will need to re-enroll in the Medicare program. PECOS will be an electronic option for Palmetto. She discussed that documents CR7460 and MM7460 have been revised and discussed, and that beginning January 1, 2012 URR will change to kT/V. The documents state that the value must be reported for the last dialysis session covered by the claim for the month. Obviously, there are inherent problems in being compliant with the mandate.

Reimbursement for enteral supplements will be cut by Medi-Cal effective October 1, 2011; except for tube feeding and intestinal malabsorption (diabetic gastroparesis may qualify).

PCT Exam Report

Mike Paget

Mike Paget reported that two exam sessions were offered yesterday, September 15, 2011 with 140 exams being administered. Only 5% of participants were affiliated with a dialysis unit. Currently there are approximately 20 plus schools in California that are training Patient Care Technicians (PCTs).

Steven Reed from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has contacted both Mike Paget and Karen Dyer regarding writing regulations for PCT training. He has been invited to the Oakland meeting. Kathleen Billingsly has been rehired as a Deputy Director and it is assumed that Steven works for her. Mike Arnold will attempt to get further information on this project.

A reminder that the FAQ section of the web site reflects the current requirements for California PCT certification. Visit the CDC web site at:

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

Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel



*“Save the date for the
30th CDC Annual Educational
Conference”*

April 12 ~ 14, 2012



“I call it - DIALYSIS!”

In Memory of Peter Quaipe

Dec1943 ~ June 2010

Kidney Patient/Cartoonist

ESRD NETWORK Report

Jenna Freeman

Jenna Freeman presented the report on upcoming activities. Facilities with fistula rates <50% will be mentored by facilities that have >63% rate of fistulas. A Bone and Mineral program to monitor Ca⁺⁺, PO₄ and PTH will be rolled out. This is similar to the tsat program rolled out in 2010. A psychonephrology project is being rolled out with the goal to focus more on psychosocial needs of patients. A project to decrease hospitalizations that are due to the breakdown of communication with the unit will be looked at and an attempt to bridge that gap will be developed. National Kidney Walk is being held September 25, 2011 at Rose Bowl and the Network will have a booth. The Second Annual Emergency Preparedness Seminar will be held November 10, 2011 at the Braille Institute in Los Angeles. The perspective will highlight how San Diego mobilized during the fires. The Patient Services Department is addressing the vocational rehabilitation needs of Network 18 patients. An End of Life Conference will be held with hospitals, nursing homes and dialysis clinics. Two hundred participants are expected. This conference will move to northern California and then to other ESRD Networks. The Patient Advisory Council is active again. Nominations for the Medical Review Board and Board of Directors are requested.

Patient Organizations Report

David Ackerman

Report was presented by David Ackerman in absence of Lori Hartwell, who is presently in Washington, DC attending the KCP Board meeting and is also meeting with CMS. David stated that the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act of 2011, S1454, has been introduced in both houses of Congress. He encouraged those present to write letters of support. More information can be found at: http://www.rsnhope.info/programs/wekan/Act_Tx_Immunosuppresant_2011.php Comments on the CMS Proposed Rule on Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans are due by September 23, 2011. The main issues are:
ACCESS: Individuals with kidney failure should have access to Health Benefit Exchanges
CHOICE: Individuals with kidney failure should be allowed to keep their private insurance after they are diagnosed with the disease.
ASSISTANCE: Individuals with kidney failure should be permitted to access subsidized coverage if available to others.
APPROPRIATE CARE: Individuals with kidney failure should receive high quality care that promotes managing kidney disease, addresses co-morbidities, and encourages pre-ESRD services (e.g., placement of fistulas, appropriate management of anemia)
The patient groups RSN, DPC, AKF and NKF are having bi-weekly meetings to discuss the comments so we can have a stronger voice when commenting.

California Dialysis Council

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Next Board Meeting

October 21, 2011 ~ 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