



Northwest Renal Network

Helping Navigate Kidney Disease

Patient Bulletin

Time to Check the Report Card

Did you know that just like when you were in school, your dialysis facility gets a report card? Indeed, their performance is rated and you should know how well they are doing at keeping your best interests in the spotlight.

As you well know, facilities get paid through Medicare/Medicaid for each dialysis treatment done for you. If the treatment outcomes are good, the facilities get paid the full amount. If certain measures do not meet the standard, the payment received is reduced. Those measurements are based on the average of patient's laboratory values in Anemia Management + Dialysis Adequacy. They use the lab results from the tests that are done for you monthly. So these tests not only tell them how you are doing right now, but also how they can expect to be paid in the following year.

What tests do they use? Last year they used the hemoglobin level to determine the number of the part of your red blood cells you have to carry oxygen around to your entire body. It should measure between 10 and 12. The other test was the URR (**U**rea **R**eduction **R**ate) which measures how effective or adequate your dialysis has been. Both of these things can affect how you feel and also be affected by how you take care of yourself. You should find out what your lab tests show - ask your nurse or dietician.

Back to the report card, each facility has received their report card for the year already. All facilities are required to display it in an area where you can easily read it. If you think you have not yet seen it, ask to be directed to it. If you have seen it and have questions, talk with your facility nurse or administrator. You can also compare your facility with other facilities by checking at Dialysis Facility Compare on the computer at:

www.medicare.gov/dialysis.

Happy St Patrick's Day!

Everyone is a little Irish once a year!



Our mission is to promote optimal dialysis and transplant care for kidney patients in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington

We Can Help With:

Care concerns

Patient rights

Transplant

Treatment options

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