

Northwest Renal Network
Quality Improvement Work Plan Overview
 July 2011 to June 2012
 MRB and CMS Approved Projects for QI Work Plan

GOAL	ACTIVITY
Improve Prevalent-Patient AVF Rates	
Increase AVF rates at 64 Network dialysis facilities with prevalent-patient AVF-in-use rates below 67.3% (formal Quality Improvement Project).	<p>Target facilities have been sent graphs comparing their prevalent-patient AVF rates to rates at other facilities in their region, asked to submit RCAs and Action Plans, and asked to attend Web-ex presentations on <i>Assessing AVF Maturation, Creating Secondary AVF from Grafts, and/or Reducing Long-Term Catheters</i>. They will be provided a variety of technical education material, and offered assistance as needed from the Network's QI staff.</p> <p>Results: Aggregate AVF-in-use rate among prevalent patients at target facilities increased by 1.8 percentage points, exceeding the 1.5-point goal. All other facilities added only 1.1 points.</p>
Improve Incident-Patient AVF-in-Place Rates in One State	
Improve incident-patient AVF-in-place rates at 8 Network dialysis facilities that account for a majority of new patients in one Network state (formal Quality Improvement Project).	<p>Target facilities have been sent graphs comparing their incident-patient AVF rates to rates at other facilities, and asked to submit RCAs and Action Plans. They will be asked to attend relevant Web-ex presentations, provided a variety of technical education material, and offered assistance as needed from the Network's QI staff. They also received (as did all Network facilities) the Network's new Best Demonstrated Practices document on incident-patient AVF rates.</p> <p>Results: Aggregate AVF-in-place rate among incident patients at target facilities increased by 20 percentage points, far exceeding the 3-point goal, which was set to be 50% above trend. All other facilities added only 2 points.</p>
Decrease Long-Term Catheter Use	
Reduce prevalent-patient long-term catheter (LTC) use at 16 Network dialysis facilities with high LTC rates (formal Quality Improvement Project).	<p>Target facilities have been asked to submit RCAs and Action Plans, and will be asked to attend Web-ex presentations on <i>Reducing Long-Term Catheters</i>, provided a variety of technical education material, and offered assistance as needed from the Network's QI staff.</p> <p>Results: Aggregate LTC rate at target facilities declined by 0.8 percentage points, less than the 1.0-point goal. All other facilities declined by only 0.1 points, however.</p>

Improve Quality of Care at Facilities with Multiple Opportunities for Improvement

At several Network facilities which fail to meet Network Goals on three or more Critical Performance Measures (CPM), increase facilities' CQI skills and increase performance on at least one CPM (formal Quality Improvement Project).

Target facilities have been asked to submit RCAs and Action Plans for improving their QI skills and for improving at least one CPM, attend relevant Web-ex presentations, and provide QI-Meeting minutes for review by Network QI staff. They will be provided a variety of technical education material, and offered assistance as needed by the Network's QI staff.

Results: All facilities met their CPM-improvement goal.

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