



MEMORANDUM

To: «HNURSNAMES», Clinic Manager  
#«PROVNUM» «PROVNAME»

From: Harriet L. Edwards, Executive Director  
Shean Strong, Quality Improvement Manager  
Jenna Freeman, Patient Services Manager

Subject: **Network Mailing**

Date: January 31, 2011

Please review the mailing for the following enclosed items:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTIONS	ACTION
News from the Network Newsletter: Volume 4	This newsletter will provide you with information regarding Network updates, information, activities, and projects.	Review and share with staff.
Fistula First Breakthrough Initiative (FFBI) Reports & Resources	<p>These reports represent vascular access rates for incident and prevalent patients in your facility. Review the data provided for your facility's progress and opportunities for improvement as well as comparison with others in the Network.</p> <p>Enclosed: Fistula First Reports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vascular Access Used in Prevalent Patients</li> <li>2. Fistula Use and Placement Rates in Incident Patients</li> <li>3. ESRD Network 18 Fistula First Feedback Report</li> <li>4. ESRD Network 18 Summary</li> <li>5. Champion Vascular Access Facilities</li> </ol> <p>Enclosed: NEW Vascular access resources from FFBI (These documents can also be found on the Fistula First website at <a href="http://www.fistulafirst.org">www.fistulafirst.org</a>):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Detection of Access Dysfunction in Permanent Vascular Access [AV Fistula (AVF) &amp; AV Graft (AVG)] for Dialysis Facility Staff</li> <li>2. Assessing and Monitoring of the Newly Placed AV Fistula for Maturation</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review data for opportunities for improvement. (<i>Notice trends of all vascular accesses.</i>)</li> <li>• Network staff may follow up to discuss your facility's results.</li> <li>• Share and utilize resources as applicable to your facility.</li> </ul>

**Mission Statement**

*To provide leadership and assistance to renal dialysis and transplant facilities in a manner that supports continuous improvement in patient care, outcomes, safety and satisfaction.*

	3. Monitoring the Newly Placed AV Fistula for Maturation Algorithm	
Dialysis Facility Disaster – Severe Weather Response Form	To better communicate with facilities in an emergency situation or severe weather event, enclosed please find the <i>Dialysis Facility Disaster – Severe Weather Response Form</i> . This form will assist facilities in reporting emergency and weather events.	Submit form via fax to the Network office in an event of an emergency or severe weather event.
Shining Stars: October – December 2010	Enclosed please find your facility-specific <i>Delinquent Form Submission Report</i> for October - December 2010. The forms listed were received after the original due date or was never received by the Network. Please review the report for areas to improve in timely data submission.  Enclosed: Shining Stars Flyer (October - December 2010)	Review report and improve timely data submission in necessary areas.
Involuntary Discharge Process Guidelines	Please find enclosed an updated checklist and process guidelines for your facility to follow should you encounter a possible case for Involuntary Discharge.  Enclosed: <i>Involuntary Discharge Checklist for Dialysis Facilities</i>	Review with staff and replace previous copies you may have received.
Providing Technical Assistance	The Network is tasked with providing technical assistance to facilities on an on-going basis. To better understand the types of technical assistance, please find enclosed the <i>How We Can Help</i> and <i>Who to Ask for At Network 18</i> flyers. These flyers will assist facilities in identifying technical assistance consultations with the Network.	Review with staff and replace previous copies you may have received.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Network 18 office at (323) 962-2020.