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2017 CROWNWeb News

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Every month, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the CROWNWeb Outreach, Communication, and Training (OCT) team work to provide the ESRD community news and information on what is happening in the CROWNWeb system. Throughout 2017, this Newsletter has become a source for information on clinical presentations provided by CMS’ Nephrologist; updates, kudos, and charts on the status of the CROWNWeb Data Quality Goals, implementation of the CROWNWeb Facility Dashboard, and the pending Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) initiative (just to name a few topics). Additionally, this Newsletter has disseminated information on how the dialysis communities, affected by the many natural disasters, were relieved of clinical reporting responsibilities with 60-day extensions to meet CROWNWeb requirements. Each of the stories provided readers a recap of important information or, in some cases, additional and clarifying information. The main goal of the Newsletters is always to give the CROWNWeb user community the most up-to-date and accurate information. We are proud to end the year with some new information and look forward to what is coming next year. Have a wonderful Holiday season!

New Updates for CROWNWeb

During 2017 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) worked with its CROWNWeb application development team to add system upgrades and enhancements to produce a system that best meets CMS and user needs. The most notable CROWNWeb update in 2017 was the June release of the Facility Dashboard. As the year draws to a close, CROWNWeb users will notice two major updates to the single user interface that will be introduced December 5, 2017. First, users will be able to report Ultrafiltration Data via the clinical module in CROWNWeb. This addition will help to support the ESRD Quality Incentive Program. Second, a final 2017 update to the Facility Dashboard will feature the In-Center Hemodialysis Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (ICH CAHPS) attestation as a selection in January 2018. These two updates round out a year of comprehensive enhancements to a system that is continuously undergoing change to meet the needs of dialysis facilities and CMS.
CROWNWeb – Outreach to the ESRD Patient

The OCT team works with CMS each year to write informative CROWNWeb articles with the purpose of educating the ESRD community about CROWNWeb. Articles are written to enhance CROWNWeb knowledge in a specific area, or for a specific group of people. The articles are then submitted to various publications for distribution. Our most recent piece focuses on how the CROWNWeb website supports ongoing patient education. Specific details were listed on how patients can use the MyCROWNWeb website and its posted materials to understand how the dialysis facilities use CROWNWeb to report ESRD patient events, submit CMS forms, and provide clinical data with modality information. The article notes," CROWNWeb is not a system that patients can use – it’s solely used by providers for submitting ESRD data to CMS”. However, ESRD patients can submit emails to CRAFT to learn more about the system and are welcome to join Town Hall Events.

The article, entitled “How the CROWNWeb Portal Supports the Ongoing Education of Dialysis Patients”, can be found in the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) November Digital version of their RENALIFE magazine at https://aakp.org/magazine/aakp-renalife-november/. Additionally, the article will be placed in the print version of AAKP’s November 2017 RENALIFE magazine.

Understanding Roles and Scope in CROWNWeb

Having the correct role(s) and scope in CROWNWeb ensures that your facility can begin or continue to report required patient and clinical information to CMS. In order to start the process, a dialysis facility must have at least one Security Official approved by CMS. The Security Official will be responsible for reviewing and only approving dialysis facility staff authorized to enter, edit, or review confidential patient information. During the November 2017 CROWNWeb Town Hall, the OCT team provided attendees an in-depth discussion and clearly defined who a Security Official may not approve access to CROWNWeb. Assigning proper role(s) and scope is the first step to keeping patient information in CROWNWeb secure.

Additional FEMA Designated Disaster Areas

As the country moves forward from the numerous hurricanes and fires that have impacted multiple states, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to reevaluate areas that have been impacted. In November 2017, FEMA updated its website to include counties in Alabama being designated as disaster areas, added counties and Indian reservations to the state of South Carolina, covered all areas of Puerto Rico, and added an additional county to the California wildfire list. Please visit www.FEMA.gov to access all designated disaster areas. Any “closed” dialysis facility located in a FEMA designated disaster area due to either a hurricane or wildfire will be exempt from the ESRD QIP (please see the October CROWNWeb Town Hall for more information).

Additionally, dialysis facilities in FEMA designated areas have been provided a 60-day extension on submitting CROWNWeb clinical data. All facilities will be caught up on required clinical data reporting by April 30, 2018. The clinical due date chart is available to view in the PDF version of the November Town Hall located in the events section at www.MyCROWNWeb.org.