

Interactions

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By supporting the increased use of fistulas when medically appropriate and also encouraging proper reimbursement for doctors, Kidney Care Partners -- an alliance of patient advocates, dialysis professionals, providers and suppliers -- hopes to promote improvements in the quality of care through an outcomes-based reimbursement system.

We strongly support the Kidney Care Quality and Improvement Act of 2005, currently before Congress, because it addresses the importance of fistulas by reforming surgical reimbursements so as not to discourage fistula procedures -- which will result in improvements in health and savings to the overall Medicare program. Not to be overlooked, the bill also encourages awareness and education to prevent kidney failure before it even starts.

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(Jonathan Ernst - Ftwp)