



National Kidney Foundation™

Medicare Proposes Deep Cuts for Dialysis

NKF's CEO Bruce Skyer expresses concern about the impact to patient care

New York, NY – The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) understands CMS is required by law to reduce the payment rate. However, NKF is concerned about the impact that this large of a cut may have on patient care across the country.

Currently, across all dialysis providers, Medicare profit margins are only 3-4 percent (as estimated by the Medicare Payment Advisory Committee – MEDPAC). Since CMS is proposing a 9.4 percent cut to the base rate for Medicare payments, most providers will have to make considerable changes in how they operate in order to cover the most basic costs of care. NKF is concerned that some providers may not be able to withstand cuts and will have to close facilities and that many others may have to eliminate patient-focused programs, services, and benefits that improve patients' health and quality of life. Rather than wait and see how dialysis facilities respond to the cuts, we hope that Congress and CMS will engage in a meaningful dialogue with dialysis providers, patient groups, professionals, and others involved in caring for patients to identify ways to reduce the proposed cuts while still complying with the law.

Kidney Facts:

- More than 26 Million Americans - 1 in 9 adults – have chronic kidney disease and most don't know it.
- 73 million American adults are at risk due to high blood pressure, diabetes or a family history of kidney disease.
- Every 5 minutes someone's kidneys fail.
- More than 415,000 people in the United States depend on dialysis treatment to survive.
- Of the over 116,000 Americans on the national organ transplant waitlist, more than 95,000 await a life-saving kidney.

The **National Kidney Foundation** (NKF) is the leading organization in the U.S. dedicated to the awareness, prevention and treatment of kidney disease for hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals, millions of patients and tens of millions of Americans at risk. For more information, visit www.kidney.org.



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