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Statement from Kidney Care Partners (KCP) on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Rule for the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Incentive Program (QIP)

KCP has been and continues to be a leading advocate for the creation of a value-based purchasing program within Medicare's ESRD benefit that establishes quality standards and incentivizes quality care through payment. Indeed, the ESRD QIP is the first ever true "pay for performance," not just pay for reporting, system under Medicare.

KCP recognizes CMS' final QIP rule as a significant step in the creation of such a value-based purchasing system, although the final rule falls short in not recognizing and rewarding exceptional performance. Unfortunately, the final rule allows scarce resources to seep out of this life-saving benefit through the imposition of penalties without ensuring that the funds remain within the program to incentivize quality. KCP believes that savings from any penalties should be placed in a payment pool that is distributed to providers based on quality achievement and improvement.

KCP looks forward to working closely with CMS to ensure this new QIP program meets program objectives to improve quality by adding a component to reward exceptional provider performance.

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KCP represents all constituents within the kidney community, including physician and nursing organizations, patient advocacy groups, providers, researchers and manufacturers.