



The Voice Of All Kidney Patients™

Roberta Wager, RN, MSN
President

April 22, 2008

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Vice President

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
Washington, D.C., 20201

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Dear Administrator Weems:

Brenda Dyson
Immediate Past President

On behalf of the American Association for Kidney Patients, we would like to thank you for releasing the ESRD Final Rule (April 3, 2008) to modernize Medicare requirements for dialysis centers. We are especially grateful for the new requirements for dialysis technicians.

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The American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) is the only non-profit organization founded by kidney patients, for kidney patients. AAKP serves over one million Americans annually who have either lost kidney function (and live with dialysis or transplant) or have chronic kidney disease. Our organization is dedicated to serving the needs, interests, and welfare of all kidney patients and their families.

Medical Advisory Board:

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Currently, about 26 million Americans have chronic kidney disease (CKD) with hundreds of thousands suffering from end-stage renal disease (ESRD). These numbers are expected to grow continuously.

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The new requirements hold dialysis technicians to a higher standard for their work. Further, the requirements focus on the importance of patient care and demonstrate the advancement for standard care for patients. This final rule expresses the advancement of kidney dialysis since 1976, over 30 years ago.

We are truly grateful for the dedicated time and effort put in to release the final rule. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Kris Robinson
Executive Director and CEO

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Executive Director/CEO

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