

My Network: Medicare Quality Incentive Program (QIP)

Medicare has a new way to pay dialysis clinics called the Quality Incentive Program (QIP). The program keeps track of how well your dialysis clinic is giving care to all patients and Medicare pays them based on their performance. Improving outcomes is a team effort, which includes you and your care team. Knowing what the QIP is, how it works and what information is available can help you get better care.

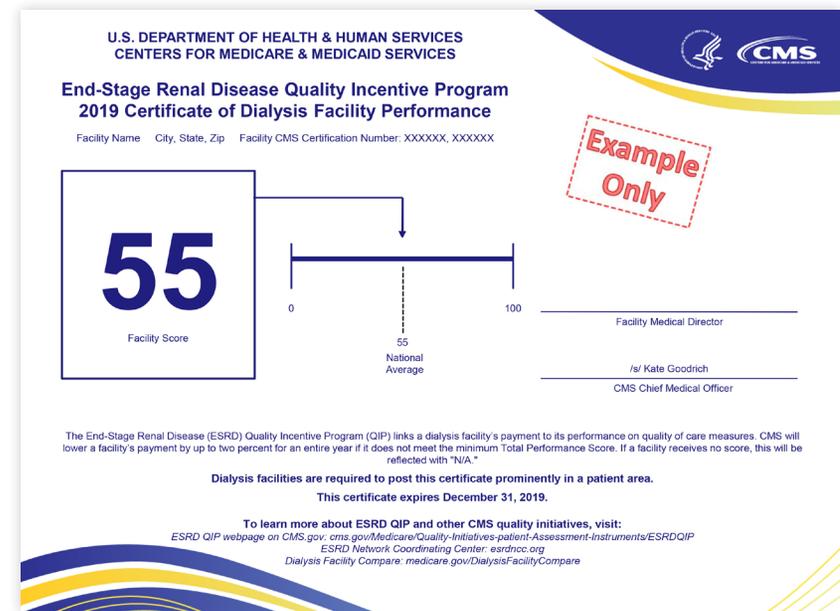
My Clinic Certificate

The Dialysis Facility Performance Certificate is like a report card for your clinic. This report was made to help you understand how well your clinic is doing. The Dialysis Facility Performance Certificate has the scores for different areas of care based on lab numbers as well as reports the clinic has to do.

Each year Medicare will set performance standards for quality of care. The different areas or measures to be used in 2014 are:

Clinical Measures (Grades on Medical Treatment)

- Anemia* Management: Patients with hemoglobin more than 12g/dl. Looks at how “thin” your blood is.
- Dialysis adequacy*: Patients with Urea Reduction Ratio (URR) more than or equal to 65%. Tells how good of dialysis you are getting.
- Vascular Access Type (VAT) – Fistula* – More than 68% of patients have fistulas.
- Vascular Access Type (VAT) – Catheter – Less than 10% of patients have catheters.



Reporting Measures (Grades on Giving Information to Medicare)

- Dialysis event data entry to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) system. A safety program for all giving healthcare.
- In-Center Hemodialysis Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (ICH CAHPS) information. A survey for patients to provide feedback on how satisfied you are with your care.
- The serum calcium and serum phosphorus* levels of all patients on a monthly basis. Tells how strong your bones are.

*For more information on specific areas of care, read the “Anemia,” “Am I Getting Enough Dialysis,” “Fistula” and “Renal Bone Disease”, pages in the MY KIDNEY KIT.

What does it mean?

- Based on the grade your clinic receives, low performers could receive up to a 2% pay cut from Medicare. Every year the grading may be different.
- Medicare wants you to know your clinic's scores:
 - To give you information to talk about with your dialysis care team and doctor
 - To help your care team improve the care they provide you and others
 - So that you can compare your clinic with others, using www.medicare.gov/dialysis. (For more information read the “Dialysis Facility Compare” page in the MY NETWORK section of the My Kidney Kit)

My Questions

Ask Your Care Team:

- Where can I find the Dialysis Facility Performance Certificate for the clinic?
- What is my hemoglobin level?
- What is my Urea Reduction Ratio (URR)?
- How can I help improve the clinic's “grades”?
- What can the clinic do to help me get better treatment?