

Northwest Renal Network  
**Quality Improvement Work Plan Overview**  
 July 2011 to June 2012  
 MRB and CMS Approved Projects for QI Work Plan

GOAL	ACTIVITY
<b>Improve Prevalent-Patient AVF Rates</b>	
Increase AVF rates at 64 Network dialysis facilities with prevalent-patient AVF-in-use rates below 67.3% (formal Quality Improvement Project).	Target facilities have been sent graphs comparing their prevalent-patient AVF rates to rates at other facilities in their region, asked to submit RCAs and Action Plans, and asked to attend Web-ex presentations on <i>Assessing AVF Maturation, Creating Secondary AVF from Grafts, and/or Reducing Long-Term Catheters</i> . They will be provided a variety of technical education material, and offered assistance as needed from the Network's QI staff.  Results: to be determined.
<b>2011 and 2012 AVF Peer-Comparison Mailings</b>	
Increase fistula usage rates and decrease long-term catheter rates at all Network dialysis facilities (informal Quality Improvement Activity).	Summaries of September 2011 Fistula First data will be sent to all Network facility Nurse Managers and Medical Directors in December 2011, including peer-comparison graphs of fistula-in-use and long-term catheter (LTC) rates. If budgets allow, summaries of March 2012 Fistula First data will also be sent to all Network facility Nurse Managers and Medical Directors in April-May 2012.  Results: to be determined.
<b>Improve Incident-Patient AVF-in-Place Rates in One State</b>	
Improve incident-patient AVF-in-place rates at 8 Network dialysis facilities that account for a majority of new patients in one Network state (formal Quality Improvement Project).	Target facilities have been sent graphs comparing their incident-patient AVF rates to rates at other facilities, and asked to submit RCAs and Action Plans. They will be asked to attend relevant Web-ex presentations, provided a variety of technical education material, and offered assistance as needed from the Network's QI staff.  Results: to be determined.
<b>Improve Incident-Patient AVF-in-Place Rates in All Network Facilities</b>	
Increase fistula placement rates among incident patients at all Network dialysis facilities (informal Quality Improvement Activity).	All Network facilities will be sent peer-comparison graphs showing their incident-patient AVF-in-place rates compared to other facilities in their region, along with a Best Demonstrated Practices document compiled from information gathered from the thirty Network facilities which met the 60% CMS and Network goal. Facilities will be offered assistance from the Network's QI staff as

	<p>requested.</p> <p>Results: to be determined.</p>
<p><b>Decrease Long-Term Catheter Use</b></p>	
<p>Reduce long-term catheter (LTC) use at 16 Network dialysis facilities with high LTC rates (formal Quality Improvement Project).</p>	<p>Target facilities have been asked to submit RCAs and Action Plans, and will be asked to attend Web-ex presentations on <i>Reducing Long-Term Catheters</i>, provided a variety of technical education material, and offered assistance as needed from the Network's QI staff.</p> <p>Results: to be determined.</p>
<p><b>Improve Quality of Care at Facilities with Multiple Opportunities for Improvement</b></p>	
<p>At several Network facilities which fail to meet Network Goals on three or more Critical Performance Measures (CPM), increase facilities' CQI skills and increase performance on at least one CPM (formal Quality Improvement Project).</p>	<p>Target facilities have been asked to submit RCAs and Action Plans for improving their QI skills and for improving at least one CPM, attend relevant Web-ex presentations, and provide QI-Meeting minutes for review by Network QI staff. They will be provided a variety of technical education material, and offered assistance as needed by the Network's QI staff.</p> <p>Results: to be determined.</p>