

Northwest Renal Network

Vocational Rehabilitation Toolkit

January 18, 2012

Northwest Renal Network (ESRD Network 16) strives to promote optimal care for individuals with End-Stage Renal Disease. Optimal care not only includes safe and quality care, but must also include efforts to improve patient independence, quality of life, and rehabilitation. The CMS Conditions for Coverage for ESRD Facilities require facilities to assist patients with an individualized vocational rehabilitation (VR) plan. In support of this endeavor, and to aid you in your quality improvement efforts, Network 16 has developed a **Vocational Rehabilitation Toolkit**. The following recommended practices, tools and resources are available for download at www.nwrenalnetwork.org:

- Informational materials for patients:
 - [**Working While Disabled: How We Can Help**](#) – A Social Security Publication (download other languages version at www.socialsecurity.gov)
 - [**Understanding the Benefits**](#) – A Social Security Publication (download other languages version at www.socialsecurity.gov)
 - [**Social Security Administration Fact Sheet**](#) – Information about Social Security changes for 2012 (Also available in Spanish at www.socialsecurity.gov)
 - [**Did you know that dialysis patients can work and still keep their Social Security Benefits?**](#) – A poster for the facility waiting area / handout for patients
 - [**Guide to Working with Your Local Vocational Rehabilitation Office**](#) – A step by step guide to the VR process for patients
 - [**Keeping Your Job When You Need Dialysis**](#) – A fact sheet developed by the Medical Education Institute, that addresses anemia, income and treatment options

- Vocational Rehabilitation Resources:
 - [**Northwest Renal Network Vocational Rehabilitation Resource List**](#) – A list of DVR offices and resources for providers and patients
 - [**Threading the Needle to Complete the Stitch: Rehabilitation – Dialysis Through Transplant**](#) – Article by Mary Beth Callahan, ACSW/LCSW

- [**Vocational Rehabilitation Toolkit Evaluation Form**](#) – A feedback form related to the Toolkit materials, for facility social workers to complete and return to the Network

- Recommended Practices for Providers:
 - [**Good News**](#) – A handout for CKD/ESRD partners related to work incentives and resources
 - [**Vocational Rehabilitation Best Practices Checklist**](#) – Recommendations and resources for facility operations and patient care (Make sure you share this checklist with your facility manager)
 - [**Tips for Partnering with Local Vocational Rehabilitation \(VR\) Offices**](#) – A list of best practices for building relationships with VR Counselors

- Network 16 Vocational Rehabilitation Outcomes and Data Collection Tools:
 - [**Network 16 2010 Vocational Summary Report**](#) – Information on Network 16's VR outcomes by state
 - [**Vocational Rehabilitation Tracking Tool**](#) – A tool designed for use on a monthly basis to keep track of facility VR data
 - [**Vocational Rehabilitation Tracking Tool Instructions**](#) – Instructions for use of the VR Tracking Tool
 - [**Quality Improvement Action \(QIA\) Plan**](#) – A QI template for monitoring your facility VR activities
 - [**Quality Improvement Action Plan Sample**](#) – A sample QI plan

The Network wants to support your efforts in regards to vocational rehabilitation and to help address any barriers. If you have any suggestions/comments or would like technical assistance on this matter, please call Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW, Patient Services Coordinator, at 206-923-0714, ext. 109.