2728 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (NETWORK 16)

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General	Question	Answer
	When is the 2728 form due?	Within 45 days of the date they started at your facility (Field 25).
	How long do we need to keep a copy of the 2728 form?	This is up to your individual facility policy. At Network 16, we keep all 2728 forms for 2 years after the patient's date of death.
	I need more 2728 forms. How can I get more?	You can request them from your local social security office. Please check to make sure you have received the most current version. (Form CMS-2728-U3 (03/06).
	If the patient already has Medicare, do I need to submit a form?	Yes. The ESRD Medical Evidence Report serves as both a Medicare entitlement form and as a registry for new ESRD patients. In addition, it is possible the patient is entitled to more benefits if applying for ESRD Medicare coverage.
	The patient is ACUTE – Do I submit a 2728?	**Do NOT** submit a 2728 for any patients who are ACUTE. Only submit for chronic ESRD patients.
	The patient had a prior kidney transplant but no prior dialysis before coming to my facility. Do I fill out an initial 2728 form?	Do not fill out an initial 2728 form. If it has been greater than 3 years since the transplant, you will fill out a Re-Entitlement 2728 form. (Click here for more details on Re-entitlement 2728 forms).

Section A	Question	Answer
8-10	What do I put for country or area of origin in field 9?	Please put whatever country the patient most associates himself or herself with. Only fill this out if patient is Hispanic or Latino (Field 8) or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (Field 10).
8-10	The patient is Hispanic or Latino. Do I need to fill in a race in field 10?	Yes – race is always a mandatory field. Fill in the race the patient most associates himself or herself with.
8-10	What are the requirements for reporting race and ethnicity on the 2728?	Both race and ethnicity must be "self-reported" by patient or patient's family when completing the 2728. "Self-reported" is defined as the patient/patient's family member or POA verbal or written confirmation of ethnicity and race. If patient is unable to communicate this to the facility, then the staff person completing the form may enter race and ethnicity, but must indicate

		that they did this in the comments section of the 2728.
8-10	What do I do if I am unable to obtain a self-reported race and/or ethnicity for the 2728?	In the event that a patient or patient's family member is unable to self-report their ethnicity and/or race, providers may record this information on behalf of the patient, but must acknowledge the absence of the patient's self-reported ethnicity and race in the remarks area (field 53) by noting that "fields 8-10" were reported by _____.
10	The patient is multi-racial. What do I check on the form?	You can check more than one race on the 2728 form. Please mark all that apply.
11	The patient already has Medicare. Do I always mark this field (Is Patient Applying for ESRD Medical Coverage?) as "No" for these patients?	No. ESRD Medical Coverage is a special program with different rules for when the coverage begins and when it ends. If a patient has Medical Coverage from Medicare, this does not mean they have ESRD Medical Coverage and may wish to apply for it.
16	The patient fits multiple prior and current employment statuses. Can I check more than one?	You can only choose one status per category (Prior & Current). Both prior and current are required.
18a-c	There is no option for < 6 months. How do I mark this?	If this is not an option on the form, **you are using an old version of the 2728**. You may still use this version - write "< 6 months" next to the appropriate field.
18d	In field 18d, the nephrologist marked that a graft was the access used on the first outpatient dialysis. Do I need to mark the follow up questions?	Answer the 1st follow-up question – "Is maturing AVF present." The patient may have a fistula that is failing to mature and a graft may be placed instead of a catheter in this case. A graft may also be placed as they wait for a fistula to mature.
19	I don't have an HbA1c or Lipid Profiles for the patient (Field 19d-e). Can I submit the form?	Yes. Although the Network would like you to report as many labs as possible, Serum Creatinine is the only required lab for the 2728 form.
19	I have labs that are within 45 days but they are after the nephrologist signed. Can I use them?	All labs must be done on or prior to the date the nephrologist signed the 2728 form. They cannot be after.
19	Can I use labs after the date in field 24?	Labs should be prior to the date in field 24. If drawn on the date in field 24, they must be pre-dialysis labs. For 2728s generated in CROWNWeb, labs after the date in field 24 will no longer be allowed.

Section B	Question	Answer
24	What date do I use as the date regular chronic dialysis began?	Field 24 is for the patient's first chronic dialysis ever as determined by the nephrologist. This could be the first time the patient dialyzed at your facility or it could be an inpatient date. Please see the instructions attached to the 2728 form for further details.

24	Why does the form say "Date Regular Chronic Dialysis Began Dialysis at Current Facility?" in field 24?	**You are using an old version of the 2728** where this was printed incorrectly. "Began dialysis at Current Facility" should have been printed in field 25. Fill out 24 as you have on previous versions of the form using the patient's first chronic dialysis ever. Field 25 is still the first chronic dialysis at your facility and will be on or after the date in field 24.
26/27	The patient has been informed of kidney transplant options, but was informed they were NOT a candidate. Do I mark the reason in field 27?	No. Field 27 is marked only if the patient was NOT informed of kidney transplant as an alternate option to in-center hemodialysis. Mark "Yes" in field 26 if this occurred regardless of whether or not the patient is considered a candidate for transplant.

Section C	Question	Answer
30-33	I do not have the preparation hospital information. How do I fill this out?	You can leave this blank. It is not a required field
36	The patient is returning to dialysis after a transplant failed. What date do I use here?	You will use the same date you use in field 24 – the first chronic dialysis after the transplant failed.

Section D	Question	Answer
40	Patient began training inpatient prior to coming to our facility. Can I put the inpatient date for the date training began?	Enter the date self-dialysis training began. (While it is expected that this date will be after the date patient started a regular course of dialysis, it should not be more than 30 days prior to the start of a regular course of dialysis.
44	I have included training on the form. Where does the nephrologist sign?	If the nephrologist is the attesting physician and the physician familiar with the patient's training, he or she will sign and date in field #44 and in fields 49/50. If the attesting physician is different from the physician familiar with the patient's training, you will need signatures from both nephrologists in the appropriate sections.

Section E	Question	Answer
48	Do I use the NPI or UPIN in field 48?	If the signing nephrologist has both an NPI and a UPIN, please fill in the UPIN in this field. If the signing nephrologist only has an NPI, please fill in the 10-digit NPI in this field.
49/50	I have included training on the form. Where does the	If the nephrologist is the attesting physician and the physician familiar with the patient's training, he or she

	nephrologist sign?	will sign and date in field #44 and in fields 49/50. If the attesting physician is different from the physician familiar with the patient's training, you will need signatures from both nephrologists in the appropriate sections.
49/50	Can a PA sign the 2728 form?	No. The CMS 2728 must be signed by the treating physician (MD or DO) who is knowledgeable of his/her kidney failure. An APRN or PA cannot sign this form in lieu of a physician based on Social Security's definition of "physician." The instructions for the CMS 2728 do not allow the use of signature stamps.
51	What is field 51 – Physician Recertification signature?	This is for SSA purposes only. It can be used to re-submit the original 2728 for patients who initially did not apply for Medicare as a new ESRD patient but are choosing to apply at a later date. Please contact social security for further instructions. Network 16 does not require a copy of a 2728 being submitted for this purpose. This cannot be submitted as a substitute for submitting a re-entitlement 2728 form, required for patients returning after a transplant failure > 3 yrs or returning after they have stopped dialysis > 1 year (regain function or discontinue patient).

Section F	Question	Answer
54/55	The patient died before signing the 2728 form. How do I handle this?	Please submit the form with the date of death written in the remarks section (field 53) along with a comment indicating the patient expired before they were able to sign the 2728. Please leave the patient signature and date fields (Fields 54/55) blank.
54/55	The patient stopped dialysis but has not died (ex. Pt discontinued, Regained Function or is Lost to Follow-Up). Can I submit the form without a signature for field 54?	No. You must get a signature from the patient, a family member or spouse of the patient or a POA. The Network cannot accept forms without a signature in field 54 for these cases.

Other Form Types

Re-Entitlement 2728	Question	Answer
	When do I do a Re-Entitlement 2728?	Submit a Re-entitlement 2728 for patients resuming treatment when: • Pt is resuming outpatient dialysis and it is greater than 1 year after a discontinue or regain function • Pt is resuming outpatient dialysis after a kidney transplant failed and the kidney transplant was

		greater than 3 years prior • Pt is having another kidney transplant greater than 3 years following a prior transplant with no dialysis between **Do NOT submit a Re-entitlement 2728 form** for a patient returning after a transplant > 3 years **unless the transplant has been verified failed** (verified the transplant will not function again).
	If a patient had a prior kidney transplant but has never been on dialysis before, what type of 2728 do I check?	The type of 2728 form for a patient returning after kidney transplant failure is a "Re-entitlement 2728" even if they have not dialyzed before.
	If a patient has Medicare already and is returning to dialysis after a failed transplant, discontinue or regain function, do I need to submit a Re-entitlement 2728?	Submit a Re-entitlement 2728 when required (see above for timeline) for all patients returning to dialysis regardless of their Medicare status.

Supplemental 2728	Question	Answer
	Who do I submit a supplemental form for?	Patients who started as In-Center Hemodialysis but started PD or Home Hemodialysis training within 3 months of their start date in field 25, or had a transplant within 3 months of their start date.
	Do you do a supplemental form for patients who started within 90 days or do you count by 3 months?	You would count by 3 months. Ex. – A patient started In-Center Hemodialysis on Jan 15th and started CAPD training March 20th needs a supplemental form for their training. This patient does not need a form if they start training on or after April 1st.
	I did a supplemental form when the patient changed to CAPD within 3 months of their In-Center Hemodialysis start date. The patient has now switched to CCPD. Do I need to do another supplemental form?	No. You do not need to do a new form each time the patient trains on a new modality, only the first time they change to a home or PD modality within 3 months of their initial start. Modality change information is reported on the monthly Network Patient Activity Report.
	What do I do if the patient did not complete their training and I submitted the form saying they did?	Please contact the Network and SSA immediately.
	I am a transplant facility. It has been less than 3 months since the patient began their initial dialysis but they were doing PD	If the patient completed PD training or Home Hemodialysis training prior to the transplant, a transplant facility does not need to do a supplemental 2728 form in this case, even if it is < 3 months.

	or Home Hemodialysis prior to the transplant. Do I need to do a supplemental 2728?	