



The Florida ESRD Network

Anemia Management *Educational Series # 3*

This is the **third** of three educational series targeted to address anemia management in ESRD. The objectives for this educational series are to provide information to increase the level of knowledge regarding anemia management strategies, recognize hypo response to erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs), and provide recommendations for addressing anemia in the patient comprehensive assessments and facility quality assessment performance improvement (QAPI) program.

The ESRD Conditions for Coverage include anemia as one of the clinical indicators required to be addressed in both the patient assessment and the facility's QAPI program. The Measures Assessment Tool (MAT) provides a list of current professionally-accepted clinical standards and current CMS Clinical Performance Measures (CPMs) and can be used as a reference guide for community-accepted standards/values. When the specified target range for anemia is not met for an individual patient, the patient's plan of care should be adjusted or an explanation provided by the interdisciplinary team member and documented in the medical record. An evaluation of anemia factors is included in the patient's comprehensive assessment criteria and should address the need for ESA and/or iron therapy. Evaluation should also address any causes of hypo-response that is identified and the interdisciplinary team must develop an outcome-oriented plan of care based on their assessment with documentation in the patient's plan of care. Patient response to ESA including blood pressure and iron stores should also be monitored on a routine basis, and actions taken to address any significant abnormalities identified for the patient.

In addition, each facility must develop, implement and maintain an effective data-driven quality assessment performance improvement (QAPI) program, reviewing aggregate data for trends and addressing facility-wide goals and identifying opportunities for improvement. By tracking anemia factors monthly, the interdisciplinary team can then conduct data reviews over consecutive evaluation periods to determine if the facility's QAPI goals for anemia are achieved. Documentation of QAPI activities including data analysis and action plans should be included in the QI meeting minutes.

Important aspects of the facility's QAPI program that contribute to improved results include:

- Monitoring data/information
- Prioritizing areas for improvement
- Identifying potential root causes
- Developing and implementing facility action plans
- Evaluating and revising action plans on an on-going basis

To download a copy, this educational fax blast will be posted on the FMQAI website at <http://fmqai.com/esrd-fax-blasts.aspx>.

Additional information can be located in the K/DOQI Guidelines at
http://www.kidney.org/PROFESSIONALS/kdoqi/guidelines_anemiaUP/index.htm

The Florida ESRD Network (Network 7) is providing this fax blast as a technical assistance activity for the Florida renal community.

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