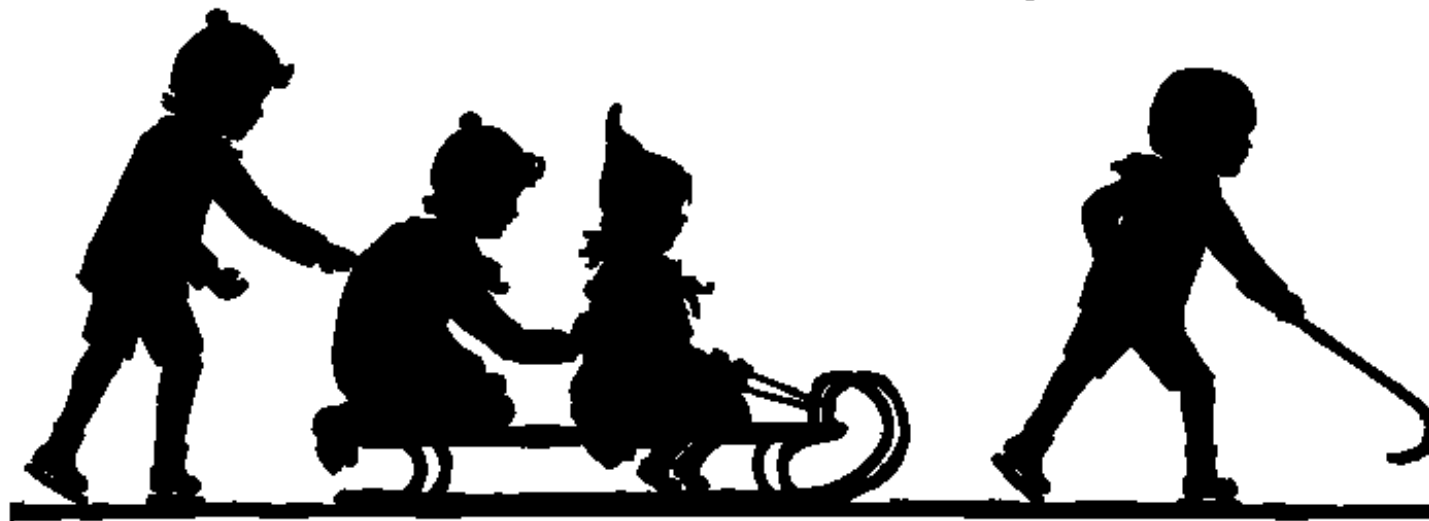


*Season's Greetings*  
*from the Network of New England*



# Network Notes

Winter 2005/2006 Issue

## Our Heartfelt Thank You

The Network of New England wish to thank everyone who attended our Annual Meeting in October.

We always have such a great turn out, it's wonderful to see everyone "face to face" instead of a voice on the phone. Your positive energy, input, questions and evaluation comments help us improve the event from year to year. All the ways you take care of New England ESRD patients is what makes our Network a leader.

Our staff feels truly fortunate to have such a great group of professionals to work with – you're the best!

We hope to see everyone at the 18<sup>th</sup> Network Annual Education Meeting held on Thursday, October 12, 2006 at Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center in Sturbridge, MA.

## Dialysis Patient Safety Quality Improvement Project

Patient safety is the most important clinical responsibility of an outpatient dialysis facility. If you are interested in participating in a *voluntary* safety quality improvement project the opportunity is here!

You and your colleagues may take an online survey that can help make hemodialysis treatments safer. Go to [www.healthandsafety.com](http://www.healthandsafety.com) to register your interest in taking the survey when it is launched on February 1, 2006.

On that date you will receive an email with further directions on how to self-administer the 15-minute survey. Your personal

information will be kept confidential and your responses will become part of blended results used to reduce medical errors and stimulate a culture of safety for dialysis patients.



## The Network Data Team Thanks You

For all of you who submit data, forms and information to the Network we say: Thank you! It's your commitment to timeliness and accuracy that helps your patients gain, and keep, their Medicare benefits. You are appreciated.

## Decreasing Patient Provider Conflict (DPC) Toolkits On The Way

With funding and support from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) ESRD Networks and Dialysis Providers have been given a new tool in dealing with conflict in the dialysis setting. DPC toolkits have been sent to the attention of the facility Social Worker as the recommended staff trainer of toolkit content. There are just enough toolkits so that each clinic may have one, when more are made available another will be sent to the attention of the Nurse Manager. Facilities that are associated with large corporations may receive training from the DPC toolkits at regional educational events. The ESRD Network of New England will provide two types of training on the DPC toolkits; one type of session is a one-hour overview designed to introduce staff to the content of the kit and to provide background as to why CMS believes the kit is needed.

The other training opportunity is an actual workshop in which the kit will be applied to real life simulations. Any facility interested in this training may contact the Network office to schedule either type session. We are hopeful that the toolkits will be useful in decreasing conflict that seems to be on the increase in dialysis facilities.



## Check Us Out!

If you haven't visited the Network website this is a good time to check us out! We have just added a new feature to the site "What's New." By clicking on "What's New" you can learn things that will assist you in managing your clinic. We will do our best to keep you informed about Network and CMS (Medicare) activities. Go to <http://www.networkofnewengland.org>. Let us know what you think!

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