

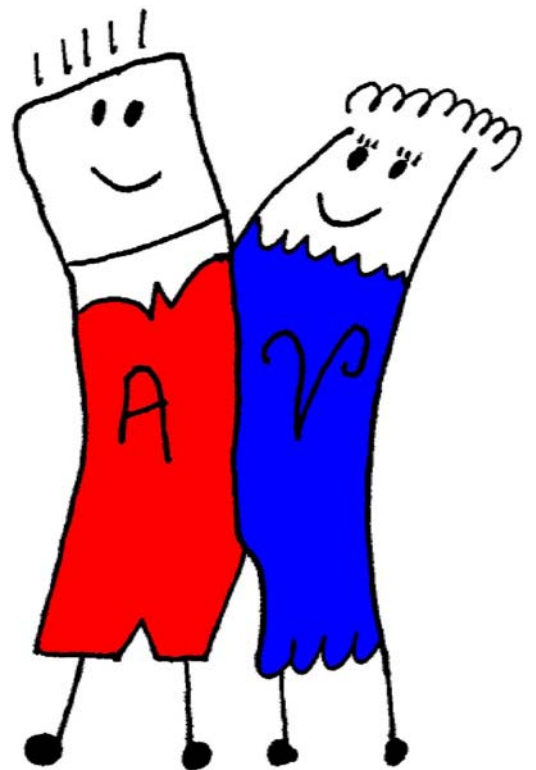
Season's Greetings

from

Freddie & Freda Fistula

and the

Network of New England Staff



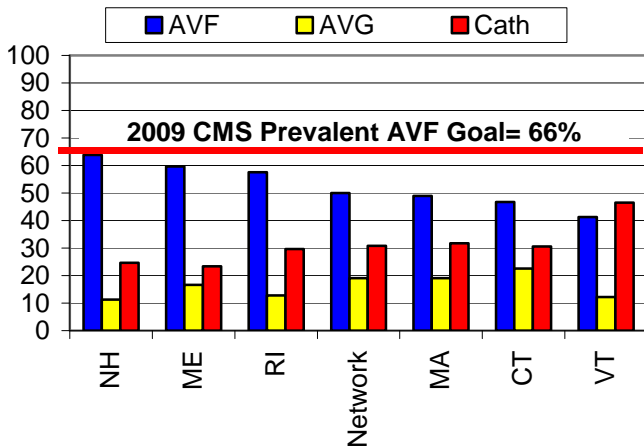
Network Notes *Winter 2006/2007 Issue*

Fistula First Initiative Update

There were 22 hemodialysis clinics recognized at the October Network Annual Meeting as champions in vascular access management for having prevalent AV fistula rates of 66% or greater. Congratulations to the following providers:

ARA Dialysis Ctr of Cranston	FMC Coastal Dialysis Ctr
ARA Dialysis Ctr of E. Providence	FMC Damariscotta Dialysis Ctr
ARA Dialysis Ctr of Fall River	FMC Manchester Kidney Ctr
ARA Dialysis Ctr of Providence	FMC New Hampshire
ARA Dialysis Ctr of Tiverton	FMC No. Providence Dialysis
ARA Dialysis Ctr of West Warwick	FMC N. Shore Regional Dialysis
Central New Hampshire Kidney Ctr	FMC South Maine Dialysis Ctr
DaVita Dialysis Ctr of Worcester	FMC Sunrise County Dialysis Ctr
DaVita Dialysis Clinic of Nashua	Maine General Medical Ctr
DCI Skowhegan Dialysis Ctr	VA Medical Center - Togus
FMC Casco Bay Dialysis Ctr	VA Medical Center - Boston

**Prevalent Vascular Access by State & Network
September 2006**



The above chart depicts how each state, and the Network as a whole, is performing in prevalent vascular access placement. The Network's Medical Review Board is concerned with the catheter rates and is working on strategies to reduce this. The KDOQI guideline suggests a 10% rate for prevalent catheters and New England averages 30%. Often the patient needs to be educated on the benefits of an AVF as well as the risks associated with catheters in order for them to consent to a fistula. This education needs to start early in the CKD patient, preferably 6 months prior to starting hemodialysis. Reducing catheters in both prevalent and incident patients will help reduce morbidity and mortality associated with vascular access. Visit the Fistula First web site at www.fistulafirst.org for a list of resources for improving AV fistula rates and reducing catheters.

Initiative to Improve Forms Submission in 2007

The Network's Information Team has designated 2007 as a year to improve compliance with CMS forms submission by ESRD providers. The Network will assist dialysis and transplant facilities to fulfill CMS reporting requirements. The Network Information Team will continue to provide guidance on correct forms completion and encourage timely submission of the #2728, #2746, Monthly Patient Activity Reports (MPAR) and annual Facility Surveys. Please renew your partnership with us in this initiative in the coming year! The Network Information Team wishes everyone a very happy Holiday Season and we look forward to working with you in the New Year.

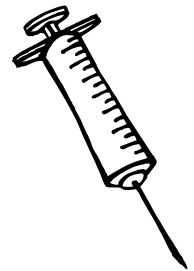
CMS Emergency Preparedness Booklets Available

Those cold and snowy New England winters are on the way! Have you ordered a supply of "Preparing for Emergencies – A Guide for People on Dialysis" for your patients? These free CMS published booklets are now available by contacting the Network office via FAX; 203-389-9902, e-mail; info@nw1.esrd.net or phone; 203-387-9332. We will need to know your name, shipping address and provider number, or you may request a fax copy of our order form. Once ordered please allow three weeks for delivery.

Influenza Vaccine

All eligible patients and staff should have been vaccinated in the months of Oct/Nov, however, if for whatever reason they were not please continue vaccinating against the flu throughout December and beyond if necessary.

Visit www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination or your state DPH web site for updates on influenza vaccine.



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