

is written, designed and distributed by the Network of New England. This newsletter is published while under contract with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Baltimore, Maryland. Contract # HHS-M-500-2006-NW001C.

Roberta Bachelder.....Editor  
Danielle R. Daley.....Designer

## **Network Notes**

Sturbridge Host Hotel  
Sturbridge, MA  
**April 21, 2009**

Sheraton Hotel  
Portsmouth, MA  
**April 16, 2009**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
"Time Out for Technicians"  
Meeting*

**Save the Date!**



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

# Network Notes

Winter 2008/2009 Issue

## Fistula First Initiative Update

The prevalent fistula rate declined to 55.3% in September due to the increase number of hemodialysis providers having less than 50% of their patients with a functioning fistula. CMS assigned this Network the goal of 56.6% prevalent AVF rate by March 2009. There are 10,798 hemodialysis patients being tracked in the Fistula First project; 5,966 patients have functioning AV fistulas. The Network is sure that every dialysis provider is working diligently to maximize their fistula rates and reduce the use of long term catheters. All clinics should have a goal of 50% or greater for their incident patients and 65% for their prevalent patients as suggested by the KDOQI guidelines for vascular access. Re-examine patients with catheters to see if they are candidates for a fistula evaluation. If vein mapping does not reveal vessels suitable for a fistula, consider the AV graft, which would decrease the potential morbidity related to long term catheters. Below are the numbers of providers in each state that are in each AVF percent range. Each clinic should work on improving their fistula rates over the next six months to obtain the 56.6% goal.

AVF Percent Range of Providers by State

AVF Percent Range	CT	MA	ME	NH	RI	VT	Count of Facilities
10% or <	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
30-39%	3	3	1	0	0	1	8
40-44%	8	4	1	0	2	1	16
45-49%	4	13	3	0	3	1	24
50-59%	11	23	6	3	4	4	51
60-69%	8	22	3	4	3	0	40
> 70%	1	5	4	3	4	0	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>157</b>

## Are You Ready for CROWNWeb?

Starting on February 1, 2009 all dialysis providers will be required to electronically submit data to CMS using CROWNWeb. Each provider must select a Security Administrator (SA) to be responsible for the establishing accounts within the facility, protection of patient data and access management to CROWNWeb. Setting up SA accounts should have been coordinated through the Network office by November 15, 2008. Additional personnel within the provider, selected to enter data, must also be registered to gain access to CROWNWeb; they are called Facility Users. All Facility User accounts need to be set up by December 31, 2008 to be ready. **If your provider has not established these accounts, please contact the Network immediately.** For more information, visit the Network site at [www.networkofnewengland.org/CROWNWeb](http://www.networkofnewengland.org/CROWNWeb) **Don't forget to register for in-person training!**

## 5-Diamond Patient Safety Program

We are pleased to announce that twenty-six (26) facilities in Network 1 are participating in the program; the following have achieved diamond status:



Androscoggin Kidney Center  
Damariscotta Dialysis  
Saints Memorial Medical Center Dialysis (Methuen)  
Renal Care Partners of Marlborough  
Fletcher Allen Healthcare - Rutland Dialysis  
Saints Medical Center Dialysis (Greater Lowell)



Southwestern Vermont Renal Center



New Britain General Hospital



New Hampshire Kidney Center  
Fletcher Allen Healthcare - North Country Dialysis

**CONGRATULATIONS** on your accomplishment and thank you for your devotion to patient safety.

For more information about the program and how to register, please visit the Network website [www.networkofnewengland.org/5Diamond.htm](http://www.networkofnewengland.org/5Diamond.htm)

## Helpful Resources for New Dialysis Conditions for Coverage

- Final Regulations  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CFCsAndCoPs/downloads/ESRDfinalrule0415.pdf>
- Interpretive Guidelines  
[www.networkofnewengland.org/CFC/InterpretiveGuidelines.pdf](http://www.networkofnewengland.org/CFC/InterpretiveGuidelines.pdf)
- Most Frequently Asked Questions  
[www.cms.hhs.gov/CFCsAndCoPs/downloads/FAQSESRDRolloutFINAL082808.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CFCsAndCoPs/downloads/FAQSESRDRolloutFINAL082808.pdf)
- Crosswalk from Previous Conditions to Revised Version  
[www.cms.hhs.gov/CFCsAndCoPs/downloads/ESRDConditionsCrosswalkFINAL080408.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CFCsAndCoPs/downloads/ESRDConditionsCrosswalkFINAL080408.pdf)
- NANT Study Package for Dialysis Technicians  
[www.networkofnewengland.org/CFC/NANTStudyPacNANT.pdf](http://www.networkofnewengland.org/CFC/NANTStudyPacNANT.pdf)  
and  
[www.nant.biz/store/product\\_info.php/pName/study-package-guide-manual-membership](http://www.nant.biz/store/product_info.php/pName/study-package-guide-manual-membership)