



5-Diamond Dialysis Facilities Shine

Network Program Improves ESRD Patient Safety

Developed by the ESRD Network of New England (Network 1) and the Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition (Network 5), the 5-Diamond Patient Safety Program has expanded to six other networks to aid in building a culture of patient safety. The 5-Diamond program has been endorsed by RPA and fulfills the Keeping Kidney Patients Safe patient safety best practices in several areas, including patient falls, medication errors and omission, and hand hygiene. The program also assists dialysis facilities in meeting Conditions for Coverage - Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement requirements.

Consisting of modules that include tools and resources necessary to implement each patient safety target area, the 5-Diamond program strives to promote patient safety values, create an awareness of patient safety issues, help dialysis units learn more about specific areas of patient safety, and build a patient safety culture in every dialysis unit. A new centralized website www.5diamondpatientsafety.org just launched, housing the 5-Diamond program information that was previously held by the individual Network websites. The website contains all of thirteen patient safety modules in a user-friendly format.

For each module completed during a program year, the facility earns one diamond. Upon successful completion of five modules, the facility is recognized as a 5-Diamond Patient Safety Facility. Facilities receive tiered awards based on their successful completion of modules, ranging from acknowledgment on the Network's website to a special recognition plaque and free attendance at the Annual Council meeting. As of June 2010, a total of 60 facilities have received 5-Diamond status. An additional 59 have been awarded at least one diamond.

Undertaking the 5-Diamond program requires buy-in and commitment from the facility care team. Successful programs have been led by dietitians and dialysis technicians as well as nurse managers and administrators. Several *Keeping Kidney Patients Safe* [best practices](#) discuss how their facilities have used the 5-Diamond program to improve patient safety.

In the coming months, the 5-Diamond program will continue to expand with new modules, and existing modules will be reviewed to ensure all data is up to date. In addition, participating facilities will be surveyed to determine how participation in the 5-Diamond program has affected changes in the facilities.