

# Forum of ESRD Networks Toolkits: Valuable Resources for Patients and Providers

Daniel Landry, DO<sup>1</sup>, John Wagner, MD<sup>1</sup>, Preethi Yerram, MD<sup>1</sup>, Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD<sup>1</sup>, Donald Molony, MD<sup>1</sup>, David Henner, DO<sup>1</sup>



PO Box 70623 • Henrico, VA 23255 • (804) 390-9822 • Fax: 1 (888) 571-2065  
email: kbrooks@esrdnetworks.org • <http://www.esrdnetworks.org>

## Introduction

Eighteen geographically defined ESRD Network Organizations exist under contract to CMS to serve as liaisons between the federal government and the providers of ESRD services. The ESRD Network Organizations' responsibilities include: the quality oversight of the care ESRD patients receive, the collection of data to administer the national Medicare ESRD program, and the provision of technical assistance to providers and patients in areas related to ESRD care and where this assistance is importantly most often designed to improve safety and quality of care.

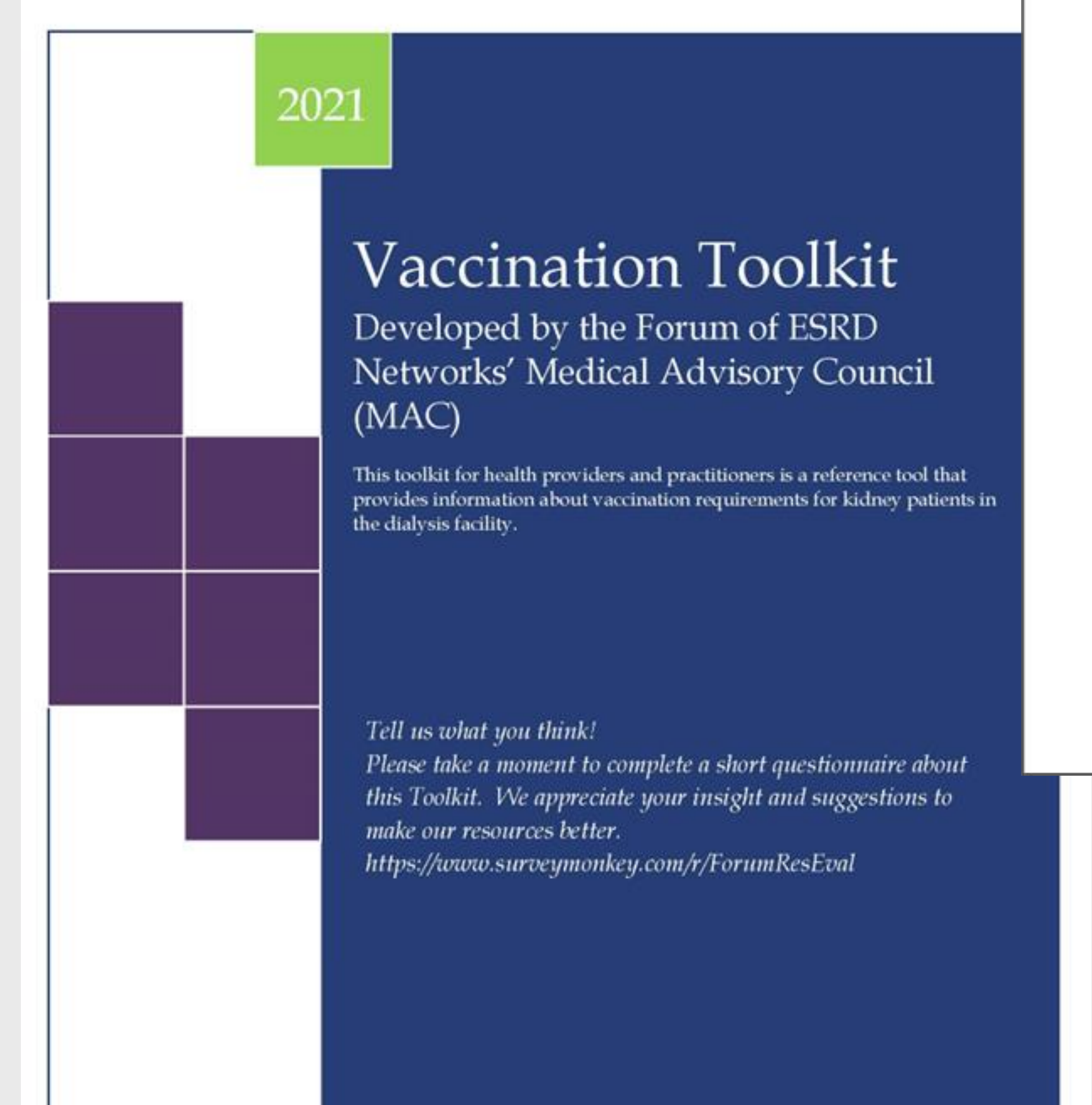
All ESRD Networks are members of the Forum of ESRD Networks (Forum), which is a not-for-profit organization that advocates on behalf of its membership and coordinates projects and activities of mutual interest to ESRD Networks. The Forum facilitates the flow of information and advances a national quality agenda with CMS and other renal organizations.

## Methods

The Forum has created toolkits that are regularly updated to provide freely disseminated information to dialysis facilities and those that they serve (providers and patients). The following MAC-authored provider toolkits have been published or updated on the Forum's website:

- Home Dialysis Toolkit (Updated 2023)
- Transitions of Care Toolkit (Updated 2022)
- Vaccination Toolkit (Updated 2021)
- Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit (Updated 2021)
- Inpatient Medical Director Toolkit (2020)
- Kidney Transplant Toolkit (2019)
- Catheter Reduction Toolkit (2011)
- Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Toolkit (2010)

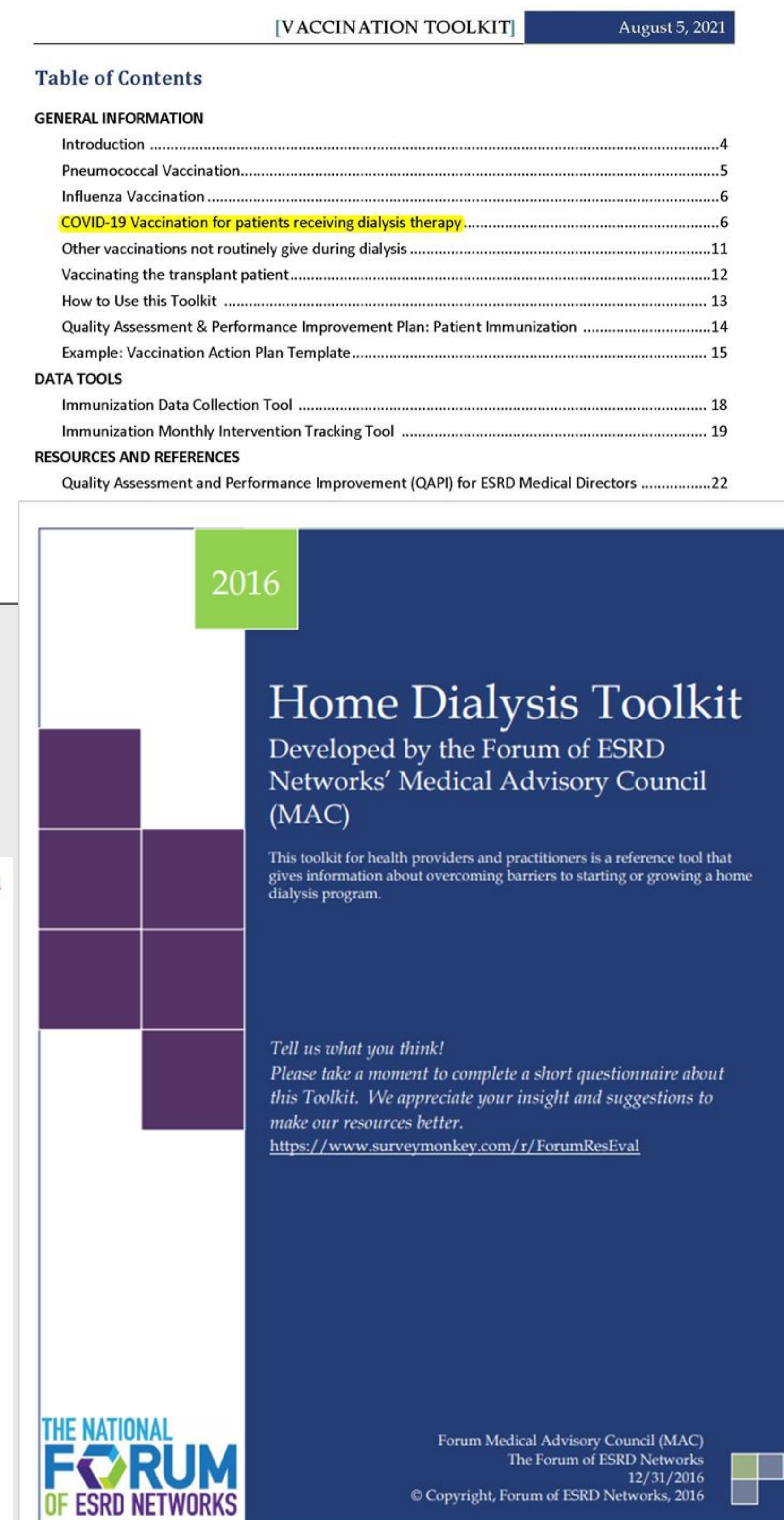
As a measure of the unmet need met by Forum toolkits, we report herein the increasing utilization of our toolkits over the last two full calendar years (CY) from Forum website access counts. These counts do not include dissemination of our toolkits by the individual Networks that substantially amplify their reach. We utilize this metric to gauge success as well as to help plan future toolkits based on need.



### Chapter 3: Emergency Management for the Home Dialysis Program

#### Chapter Synopsis

- Emergency preparedness for home dialysis requires communication and planning for both patients and staff.
- CMS Emergency Preparedness Requirements state that each program should include 4 major elements: risk assessment and emergency planning, policies and procedures, communication planning, and training and testing
- For home dialysis staff, emergency preparedness training, back-up communication planning, and coordination of patient care are critical aspects that must be provided to at both the general and individual level.
- For home dialysis patients, emergency preparedness means involvement with training and preparation with the home dialysis unit, continuous readiness with emergency and dialysis supplies, and planning for scenarios of when one cannot leave their home as well as when must leave their home.
- The National Forum of ESRD Networks works closely with the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) during emergencies and are both important resources for up-to-date information, communication, and directed support.



[VACCINATION TOOLKIT] August 5, 2021

Table of Contents

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Introduction .....4
- Pneumococcal Vaccination.....5
- Influenza Vaccination .....6
- COVID-19 Vaccination for patients receiving dialysis therapy.....6
- Other vaccinations not routinely give during dialysis .....11
- Vaccinating the transplant patient.....12
- How to Use this Toolkit .....13
- Quality Assessment & Performance Improvement Plan: Patient Immunization .....14
- Example: Vaccination Action Plan Template.....15

DATA TOOLS

- Immunization Data Collection Tool .....18
- Immunization Monthly Intervention Tracking Tool .....19

RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

- Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) for ESRD Medical Directors .....22

## Results

### Forum Toolkit Utilization, CY 2021 to CY 2022 Comparison

Toolkit	CY 2021	CY 2022	% Change
Home Dialysis	18	182	+911
Transitions of Care	73	502	+587
Vaccination	56	213	+280
Outpatient Med Director	165	360	+118
Inpatient Med Director	44	264	+500
Kidney Transplant	27	211	+681
Catheter Reduction	9	92	+922
QAPI	126	526	+317

QAPI: Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement

## Discussion

- The Forum MAC witnessed a dramatic increase in utilization of its provider toolkits when comparing CY 2021 to 2022.
- Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement, Transitions of Care, and Medical Director (both inpatient and outpatient) were the most utilized.

## Conclusions

- Based upon utilization data, it would appear that Forum MAC toolkits are becoming increasingly utilized by the nephrology community. These toolkits may have been important in supporting efforts for improvements in care during the COVID pandemic.
- As the Forum pursues ongoing efforts to support the ESRD Networks (and those whom they serve), further approaches will be evaluated to better market these toolkits to nephrology training programs, non-physician providers, and ESRD Network staff.
- Feedback from the ESRD Networks and members of the dialysis community help direct future toolkit projects with an ongoing effort to focus on specific areas of unmet need as determined by the CMS statement of work and patient and provider goals of care.
- Future toolkits in production include Practicing Health Equity, CKD Care Planning and Measures, and Conservative Management/Supportive Care.

## References

- <https://esrdnetworks.org/toolkits/professional-toolkits>
- <https://esrdnetworks.org/toolkits/patient-toolkits/>

<sup>1</sup> National Forum of ESRD Networks

Acknowledgments: We would like to thank Forum Coordinator Kelly Brooks, MPA, for her tireless and dedicated support of the Forum and this project.