



THE KIDNEY CARE COUNCIL

Providers of Quality Care for the Nation's Dialysis Patients

For Immediate Release

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Kidney Care Council Statement on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Interim Final Rule on the Transition Adjustment for Dialysis Facilities

Washington, DC (April 5, 2011) – The Kidney Care Council (KCC) applauds the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for revising the transition adjustment component of the Medicare end-stage renal disease (ESRD) prospective payment system (PPS). This change, which is supported by the kidney community and driven by statute, will help ensure that patients continue to receive high quality care in the nation's dialysis facilities.

On April 1, CMS published an interim final rule that recalculates the transition adjustment using the actual number of facilities that elected to be paid fully under the ESRD PPS rather than participating in a four-year transition period. As a result, the Agency stated that for April 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011, the transition adjustment will be zero. Previously, CMS had relied on an inaccurate estimate of the number of facilities that opted out of the transition period as the basis for a 3.1 percent cut for all dialysis facilities.

In addition, KCC is grateful for the leadership of Senators Baucus, Conrad, Hatch and Grassley, as well as Reps. Boustany and Berkley on this important issue.

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KCC is a nonprofit national health care association based in Washington, D.C. and comprised of twelve of the leading kidney dialysis provider companies in the United States. Collectively, the KCC members provide End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) services to 85 percent of the dialysis patients in the United States. The membership includes large, small, nonprofit and for-profit provider companies.