



## **Making Dialysis Safer for Patients Coalition is Launched**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with the CDC Foundation, formally launched the [Making Dialysis Safer for Patients Coalition](#) on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

During the *Coalition's* launch, [CDC](#) and three *Coalition* partner organizations, the [American Association of Kidney Patients](#), the [National Kidney Foundation](#), and the [National Renal Administrators Association](#),

issued press releases to announce the joint effort to reduce bloodstream infections among hemodialysis patients.

Combined efforts of *Coalition* participants led to media coverage in [HealthDay](#) news. *Coalition* participants capitalized on launch momentum by leveraging social media outreach—several partners posted [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) messages using the hashtag [#DialysisPatientsFirst](#).



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## **Announcing our Newest Partners**

*Coalition* partners are essential to achieving our goal of reducing bloodstream infections among hemodialysis patients. Since launching on September 27<sup>th</sup> with thirteen initial partners, the *Coalition* has welcomed partnership from **fourteen** additional organizations\*. We would like to formally welcome our new partners to the *Coalition* and thank you for your commitment.

Complete List of Partner Organizations:

- [American Association of Kidney Patients](#)
- [American Kidney Fund](#)
- [American Nephrology Nurses Association](#)
- [American Society of Nephrology](#)
- [American Society of Pediatric Nephrology](#)
- [Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology](#)
- [Association for Vascular Access\\*](#)
- [Board of Nephrology Examiners Nursing and Technology\\*](#)
- [Centers for Dialysis Care\\*](#)
- [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#)
- [Dialysis Clinic, Inc.\\*](#)
- [Dialysis Patient Citizens\\*](#)
- [Fresenius Kidney Care\\*](#)
- [Independent Dialysis Foundation\\*](#)
- [The Joint Commission\\*](#)
- [Medical Education Institute\\*](#)
- [National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration in Long Term Care\\*](#)
- [National Association of Nephrology Technicians/Technologists](#)
- [National Kidney Foundation](#)
- [National Renal Administrators Association](#)
- [Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission](#)
- [Northwest Kidney Centers\\*](#)
- [Renal Physicians Association](#)
- [The Rogosin Institute\\*](#)
- [Satellite Healthcare\\*](#)
- [Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America](#)
- [Veterans Administration Kidney Program\\*](#)

We are continuing to reach out to additional partners and will announce new partners as they join the *Coalition*. For more information on *Coalition* partnership, email: [DialysisCoalition@cdc.gov](mailto:DialysisCoalition@cdc.gov).

## Inaugural Making Dialysis Safer for Patients Coalition Stakeholder Meeting

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the *Making Dialysis Safer for Patients Coalition* held an in-person stakeholder meeting at CDC headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. In attendance were more than 80 people representing more than 50 different organizations. During the meeting, participants heard from patient advocates and experts in infection prevention, shared infection prevention strategies and



experiences from the field, and took part in a workshop to discuss barriers and solutions for implementing the [CDC Core Interventions and Guidelines](#) and [Coalition materials and resources](#).

The *Coalition* received valuable stakeholder feedback that will be used as we move forward in planning *Coalition* activities. Thank you to those who were able to attend!

## Partner Spotlight: American Association of Kidney Patients

**Conversation Starter to Prevent Infections in Dialysis Patients**

Preventing infections is important for patient safety. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) wants dialysis patients and dialysis centers to start a conversation about preventing infections. Family members can also start the conversation. We hope this guide can be a starting point to improve awareness about patient safety issues.

**How does this facility involve patients and their families in infection control activities? Are patients encouraged to speak up when they see a concerning practice (for example, a staff member who does not wash her hands)?**

Dialysis centers should educate and empower patients to help prevent infections and support a safe care environment. Talk to your social worker or facility administrator for ideas on how you can get involved.

**How does this facility make sure that all patients receive necessary vaccines to prevent illness (such as Hepatitis B, seasonal flu, and pneumococcal vaccines)?**

Patients on dialysis have weakened immune systems and should get certain vaccines to keep from getting sick.

**How does this facility make sure that dialysis center staff are vaccinated against the flu every year?**

Sick staff members can spread the flu to patients. Requiring dialysis center staff to get vaccinated each year can help prevent this spread. Dialysis centers should also have policies that support staff to stay home when they are sick.

**Does this facility check all patients for hepatitis C infection?**

All hemodialysis patients should be tested for hepatitis C when they start treatment at a center, and then every 6 months if they could become infected. Testing is the only way to know if patients have hepatitis C and to find out if the infection is spreading in the facility.

**Does this facility prepare medications in a separate room away from dialysis stations to avoid contamination?**

Medications for injection should be prepared away from patient treatment areas to keep them safe from germs. One way to do this is to prepare them in a separate room. More information about infection safety can be found at [www.oneworldlycampaign.org/](http://www.oneworldlycampaign.org/).

**CDC** To learn more visit [www.cdc.gov/dialysis](http://www.cdc.gov/dialysis) **AAKP** American Association of Kidney Patients

CDC, in collaboration with the [American Association of Kidney Patients](#) (AAKP), worked with patients and infection prevention experts to develop the [Conversation Starter to Prevent Infections in Dialysis Patients](#).

Preventing infections is important for patient safety. We want dialysis patients and dialysis centers to start a conversation about preventing infections. This guide is intended to help empower patients and their family members to start the conversation with their care team. Share copies with your patients in the waiting room or in patient information packets and use this guide to educate staff on how they can talk to patients about infection prevention.

The *Conversation Starter to Prevent Infections in Dialysis Patients* is available for [download](#) and printed copies can be ordered free of charge using Pub ID: 300043 from CDC-INFO either by calling 1-800-CDC-INFO or [ordering on line](#).

## Share This

Spread the message to put #DialysisPatientsFirst by following @CDC\_NCEZID and by starting the conversation about infection prevention on social media. To share the Start the Conversation graphic, copy this link: <http://go.usa.gov/xkMfy> into Facebook and Pinterest. To share on twitter, save the graphic and attach to your tweet—be sure to include the link and the hashtag: #DialysisPatientsFirst. The graphic links to the [Conversation Starter to Prevent Infections in Dialysis Patients](#) on the Making Dialysis Safer for Patients Coalition Website.

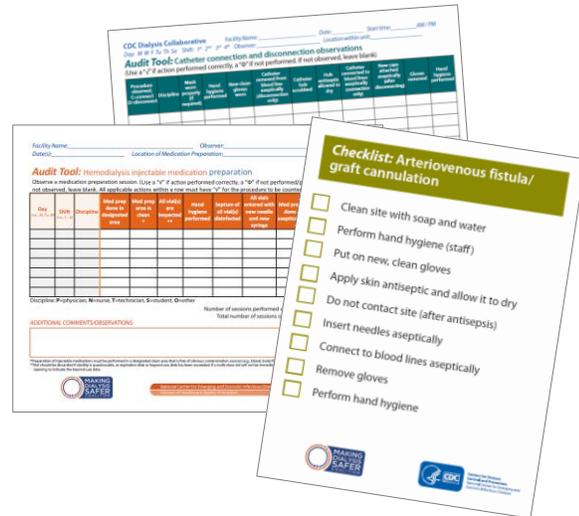
**Start the Conversation**  
Dialysis patients and their families play a key role in infection prevention.

Use the Conversation Starter to Prevent Infections to talk about staying safe from infection and put **#DialysisPatientsFirst**

## Did you Know?

Did you know that the *Making Dialysis Safer for Patients Coalition* has several materials available which are directly targeted at reducing bloodstream infections among hemodialysis patients?

Materials can be found on line in the [Resource Center](#) section of our Website and include prevention tools such as checklists, audit tools and patient resources. All materials are available for free download and print copies can be ordered free of charge using the appropriate Pub ID from CDC-INFO. Customers can order materials either by calling 1-800-CDC-INFO or by [ordering on line](#).



## Upcoming Dates

The *Coalition* will hold its first partner call on **Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 – 2:30 pm EST.**

Looking to 2017, the *Coalition* will hold the following first quarter activities. We will highlight efforts of partners during the partner calls, educational webinars, and in the *Coalition* newsletter.

| 2017     | All Partner Call | Webinar | Coalition Newsletter | Provider Committee Call |
|----------|------------------|---------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| January  | X                | X       |                      |                         |
| February |                  |         | X                    | X                       |
| March    | X                | X       |                      |                         |

## Stay in Touch

We encourage you to “*Share Your Story*” about how you are putting #DialysisPatientsFirst and about how you are helping to prevent bloodstream infections. To share your story, email the *Coalition* at [DialysisCoalition@cdc.gov](mailto:DialysisCoalition@cdc.gov). Stories have the opportunity to be highlighted in the bi-monthly *Coalition* newsletter.

Also, feel free to contact us at [DialysisCoalition@cdc.gov](mailto:DialysisCoalition@cdc.gov) to discuss the *Coalition* and your partnership role.

