



Office of Clinical Standards and Quality

DATE: August 9, 2005

TO: Independent End Stage Renal Disease Facility

FROM: Director, Information Systems Group,
Office of Clinical Standards and Quality

SUBJECT: Vital Information System to Improve Outcomes in Nephrology (VISION)
Application Training

CMS and the ESRD Networks are working together to build an integrated ESRD information system called Consolidated Renal Operations in a Web-enabled Network (CROWN). CROWN will facilitate the collection and maintenance of information about the Medicare ESRD program, individuals with ESRD and the services provided to them. Maintenance of this information by CMS is mandated by legislation and regulation. (See Public Law 95-292, Section (c)(1)(A); 42 CFR [Code of Federal Regulations], Chapter IV, Part 476; and Public Law 92-603, Section 299I.)

We expect to modernize the collection and retrieval of ESRD data in a secure, Web-enabled environment. The new capabilities will allow dialysis facilities to enter information electronically and transmit it to the appropriate ESRD Network. CMS will also be able to send feedback to the Networks and the facilities through the new environment. CROWN implementation began in June 2002 and includes the VISION software.

VISION is a "standalone" HIPPA compliant PC-based software application which will support electronic data entry and encrypted transmission of ESRD patient and facility data from dialysis facilities directly to their Networks via a secure, Web-enabled environment called "QualityNet Exchange". This free government-sponsored software is available by contacting the local ESRD Network office.

CMS encourages you to take this opportunity to work with your Network to learn about the advantages of VISION. CMS and the Social Security Administration (SSA) have an arrangement in place for the Medical Evidence Form 2728 as referenced in the SSA Program Operations Manual System (POMS) Section HI 00801.233. The SSA field offices will accept VISION-generated forms signed in blue ink

VISION facts:

- Standalone application that will run on Windows 2000 (All service packs) and XP, but can be configured to run in a networked environment via the enterprise installation method.
- Database is Microsoft Access 97, works with Office 2000 or XP (MS Access Run time library is free).
- Packaging, Delivery, & Automatic Installation by InstallShield
- GUI written in Visual Basic (+ Farpoint's Input Pro & Tab Pro, and Data Dynamics' Active Reports).
- Metadata Application Driven Application: the GUI & ETL components read the updated "ESRD Business Rules" from a separate Access database (Metadata Repository).

Technical Specifications:

- Pentium 256 MHz or faster processor;
- 32 MB free system RAM or better;
- Microsoft Windows 2000 or XP installed;
- Internet Explorer version 5.5 or greater; and
- Internet access via modem line/ISP subscription or dedicated Network connection on facility pc (not provided by CMS).

We thank you for your interest in this initiative. Additional information about the VISION project can be found here: <http://www.esrdsorce.net/vision.asp>.



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