

## Campaign for Kidney Health

*Improving Chronic Kidney Disease Treatment Through Screening and Education*

An estimated 15 percent of U.S. adults have chronic kidney disease (CKD), a condition in which kidneys are damaged, have reduced kidney function for a period of at least three months or are otherwise not able to properly filter blood.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, many people are asymptomatic and are not aware that they have CKD until it progresses to the late stages of the disease, End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD).

Risk factors for CKD include patients who have diabetes and/or hypertension, are age 60 or older, have a family history of kidney failure and/or are a member of a minority population. Diabetes and hypertension contribute to two thirds of CKD cases.<sup>2</sup> However, the progression of CKD can be slowed with early diagnosis and treatment, leading to higher quality of life and reduced long-term medical costs. Regular CKD screenings for patients with diabetes and/or hypertension enables early diagnosis of CKD.

### A Community-Based Approach

The TMF Quality Innovation Network Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) is leading a CKD Special Innovation Project (SIP), under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, to promote the early diagnosis and treatment of CKD through an integrated, systemic approach. The goal is to increase timely screening and appropriate treatment among primary care practices and to empower at-risk patients to seek CKD screening.

The TMF QIN-QIO has teamed up with national partners to align subject matter experts, resources and tools to support providers, educators and community partners. This project will engage primary care physician practices in Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas, specifically practices in rural areas and medically underserved communities. The TMF QIN-QIO will also involve community stakeholders and at-risk patients.

### Key Strategies and Interventions

The CKD SIP is a comprehensive, data-driven, primary care-based approach to improving early diagnosis and treatment of CKD. The TMF QIN-QIO will work with 125 primary care practices to improve staff awareness of CKD clinical guidelines, implement an electronic health record (EHR)-enabled workflow and implement patient engagement strategies.

This CKD project includes two primary interventions:

- Implementing a comprehensive provider approach focused on enhancing office processes to increase CKD screening and provide appropriate treatment
- Expanding the scope of current diabetes self-management education (DSME) efforts to augment patient understanding and engagement in CKD early detection and treatment

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## CAMPAIGN FOR Kidney Health

Kidney disease is the **9th leading cause of death** in the U.S.

**15%**  **15% of U.S. adults** have CKD (roughly 30 million people)

**96%** of those with CKD are **unaware** they have the condition 

 Diabetes and hypertension lead to **2/3 of CKD cases**

### 5 common risk factors:

- 1 Diabetes
- 2 Hypertension
- 3 Age 60 or older
- 4 Family history of CKD
- 5 Member of a minority ethnicity

### Two simple tests can detect CKD:



- A urine test, Albumin Creatinine Ratio (ACR)
- A blood test, Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR)



**Timely screening** improves early detection of CKD, enabling better treatment and quality of life for patients.

**Join the  
Chronic Kidney Disease project**

Contact the TMF QIN-QIO at  
[tanya.avila@tmf.org](mailto:tanya.avila@tmf.org).

1. National Chronic Kidney Disease Fact Sheet, 2017, [http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/pdf/kidney\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/pdf/kidney_factsheet.pdf)

2. Kidney Disease: The Basics, <https://www.kidney.org/news/newsroom/factsheets/KidneyDiseaseBasics>

### For Providers

TMF QIN-QIO consultants will provide individualized technical assistance to participating practices through multiple modalities to update and educate providers and care teams.

- Educational live events and webinar-based training – Providers and care teams can attend live webinars hosted by the TMF QIN-QIO in partnership with subject matter experts from national leading kidney disease education partners.
- Practice-focused online training – TMF QIN-QIO consultants will provide educational updates via one-on-one web-based training as needed for practices that cannot attend live webinars.
- Small-group technical assistance – TMF QIN-QIO consultants will offer targeted technical assistance for practices via virtual meetings.

### For DSME Trainers and Patients

The TMF QIN-QIO will engage at-risk patients in DSME programs to improve CKD screening. This project will empower at-risk patients by raising awareness of CKD and measuring the effect this promotion has on early diagnosis. TMF QIN-QIO consultants will also work with DSME facilitators to augment their curriculum to increase patient understanding and engagement in their CKD care. The TMF QIN-QIO will

- Train active DSME class facilitators/educators on CKD screening and treatment and provide them with tools and patient materials to incorporate into existing DSME programs
- Provide patients with educational materials and tools to help them communicate with their primary care physician about CKD screening

### Benefits to Participating Providers

By participating in the TMF QIN-QIO Chronic Kidney Disease project, clinicians will learn to increase CKD screening rates among at-risk patients and provide enhanced care in this area. Specifically, participating providers will

- Learn and implement evidenced-based processes that yield improved patient health outcomes with increased patient and staff satisfaction
- Receive support and education related to the use of EHRs, adoption of the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (KDOQI) CKD clinical guidelines, CKD coding and reimbursement information, and other office processes supporting CKD screening and treatment
- Meet a Quality Payment Program measure (Diabetes: Medical Attention for Nephropathy)
- Increase Medicare reimbursement opportunities for CKD screening and education
- Earn free CME credits

### Contact Us

Primary care providers, stakeholders, educators and patients are welcome to participate in this CKD project. Contact [Tanya.Avila@tmf.org](mailto:Tanya.Avila@tmf.org) or call 1-800-725-2633, ext. 1686.



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