



Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

A monthly report by Benesch on the
Dialysis & Nephrology Industry

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Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST



Please contact us if you would like to post

information regarding our upcoming events or if you'd like to guest author an article for this newsletter.

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Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 17–19, 2025

RHA Annual Conference

Orlando, Florida

[Disney's Contemporary Resort](#)

The RHA Annual Conference brings together dialysis professionals, industry leaders, and vendors from across the U.S., offering valuable education, expert insights, and networking opportunities to support the entire renal care community.

For more information, please click [here](#).

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Panoramic Health Webinar: Introduction to Private Practice Nephrology

2 time slots offered: 6:00–7:00 pm CST and 7:00–8:00 pm CST

For more information, please click [here](#).

SEPTEMBER 26–28, 2025

ANNA: 2025 Nephrology Nursing Summit

Charlotte, NC

For more information, please click [here](#).

SEPTEMBER 30–OCTOBER 3, 2025

Becker's Healthcare: 10th Annual Health IT + Digital Health + RCM Conference

Chicago, IL

For more information, please click [here](#).

OCTOBER 2–4, 2025

7th Annual Therapeutic Apheresis Academy

UVA Pinn Hall Conference Center

Charlottesville, Virginia

For more information, please click [here](#).

OCTOBER 9–11, 2025

Society of Interventional Radiology Edge 2025

San Diego, CA

For more information, please click [here](#).

OCTOBER 9–11, 2025

American Vein & Lymphatic Society 39th Annual Congress

Washington, DC

For more information, please click [here](#).

OCTOBER 10–11, 2025

2025 RPA Advocacy and Innovation Weekend

Washington, D.C.

For more information, please click [here](#).

NOVEMBER 3–4, 2025

Becker's 4th Annual Fall 2025 Payers Issue Roundtable

Chicago, IL

For more information, please click [here](#).

NOVEMBER 3–6, 2025

Becker's Healthcare: 13th Annual CEO + CFO Roundtable

Chicago, IL

For more information, please click [here](#).

NOVEMBER 5–9, 2025

ASN: Kidney Week 2025

Houston, TX

(Call for Abstracts Deadline May 21)

For more information, please click [here](#).

NOVEMBER 12, 2025

RPA PM EDGE: Keeping Nephrology Practice Managers Educated & Empowered

For more information, please click [here](#).

MARCH 1–4, 2026

American Venous Forum 2026

Denver, CO

For more information, please click [here](#).

MARCH 19–21, 2026

2026 OEIS Scientific Meeting

Las Vegas, NV (details to come)

Calendar of Events (cont'd)

APRIL 16–19, 2026

RPA 2026 Annual Meeting

Atlanta, GA

For more information, please click [here](#).

OCTOBER 21–25, 2026

ASN: Kidney Week 2026

Denver, CO

For more information, please click [here](#).

Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST



The poster for the RPA Advocacy & Innovation Weekend features a light blue background with a white border. At the top center is the RPA logo (Renal Physicians Association). To the left is an illustration of a hand holding a glowing yellow lightbulb. To the right is an illustration of a hand holding a megaphone. The main title 'Advocacy & Innovation' is in large, bold, blue letters, with 'WEEKEND' in smaller, bold, blue letters below it. The dates 'OCTOBER 10-11, 2025' are in bold, black letters. Below the dates is the location: 'Washington Marriott Capitol Hill, 175 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20002'. The registration information is: 'Member Registration: \$329 • Nonmember Registration: \$395'. A red banner at the bottom of the poster contains the text: 'A must-attend for nephrologists and practice administrators seeking to advocate, innovate, and elevate the future of kidney care.' Below this banner, the schedule for Friday, October 10 (RPA Legislative Advocacy Campaign on Capitol Hill) and Saturday, October 11 (Immersive Mini RPA Nephrology Coding and Billing Workshop and immediately following—Cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Summit) is listed. A red button with the text 'REGISTER NOW!' is positioned above the registration link. The bottom of the poster contains contact information for the RPA, including the address, phone, fax, email, and website, as well as social media handles for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

RPA
Renal Physicians Association

Advocacy & Innovation

WEEKEND

OCTOBER 10-11, 2025

Washington Marriott Capitol Hill
175 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

Member Registration: \$329 • Nonmember Registration: \$395

A must-attend for nephrologists and practice administrators seeking to advocate, innovate, and elevate the future of kidney care.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10
RPA Legislative Advocacy Campaign on Capitol Hill

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
Immersive Mini RPA Nephrology Coding and Billing Workshop and immediately following—Cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Summit

REGISTER NOW!

<https://rpa.users.membersuite.com/events/0ad80326-0078-ce15-8026-0b4875874565/details>

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Nephrology and Dialysis

AUGUST 1, 2025

Trump administration withholds CDC funding for public health programs

The Trump administration is withholding funding for multiple CDC programs, including initiatives on diabetes, chronic kidney disease, youth violence prevention, gun injury research, and tobacco use, according to a Wall Street Journal report. The total amount frozen is unclear but may reach \$200 million. The move aligns with the White House's broader plan to reduce health spending by over 25% next year, cutting nearly \$3.6 billion from the CDC's budget. The agency, now led by newly confirmed director Susan Monarez, is being downsized to about \$4 billion following major layoffs ordered by Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Source: Reuters (sub. req.)

AUGUST 14, 2025

Estrogen found to protect against acute kidney failure by blocking ferroptosis

Researchers at the University of Heidelberg uncovered why women are less susceptible to acute kidney failure than men, a phenomenon observed since the 1940s. The study shows that estrogen and its derivatives protect against ferroptosis, an iron-dependent form of regulated cell death linked to kidney damage. The hormone acts as a natural defense by blocking ferroptosis through both genomic and non-genomic mechanisms, including the regulation of radical-scavenging molecules and stabilization of cell membranes. The protective effect diminishes after menopause, aligning with reduced estrogen levels. Beyond kidney disease, the findings may have implications for cancer, cardiovascular health, stroke, and longevity, while also raising ethical questions in organ transplantation. Researchers suggest the discovery could open new avenues for targeted therapies across multiple disease areas.

Source: Technology Networks

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Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

AUGUST 14, 2025

CDC: Over one in four U.S. adults with diabetes use GLP-1 drugs

More than 25% of U.S. adults with diabetes used GLP-1 injectable drugs such as Mounjaro and Ozempic in 2024, according to new CDC survey data. Usage was highest among adults aged 50 - 64 at 33.3%, with younger adults (18 - 34) reporting 25.3% use and older adults (65+) at 20.8%. The survey also found higher adoption among Hispanic adults (31.3%) compared to Black non-Hispanic (26.5%), White non-Hispanic (26.2%), and Asian non-Hispanic adults (12.1%). GLP-1 drugs, which regulate blood sugar and support weight loss, are increasingly being prescribed alongside insulin and oral treatments. Despite their popularity, concerns remain over accessibility, with list prices averaging \$1,000 per month.

Source: Reuters (sub. req.)

AUGUST 17, 2025

Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio found linked to poor outcomes in CKD and MACE

An analysis published in BMC Nephrology found that the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR), a marker of systemic inflammation, is significantly associated with all-cause mortality, major adverse cardiovascular events, cardiovascular mortality, and adverse renal outcomes in chronic kidney disease patients. The study, which reviewed literature up to March 8, 2025, highlights NLR's predictive value for progression to end-stage renal disease and dialysis, as well as its link to cardiovascular complications and mortality.

Source: Medical Dialogues

AUGUST 18, 2025

OIG Finds Significant Improper Medicaid Payments for ABA Services in Wisconsin and Indiana, Signaling Greater Enforcement Efforts for ABA on the Horizon

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (OIG) has recently issued two audit reports revealing substantial improper Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) payments for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services provided to children diagnosed with autism in Wisconsin and Indiana. These findings underscore the importance of strict compliance with not only state guidance, but also federal requirements regarding documentation and billing requirements and formal review processes for providers and Medicaid program administrators.

Source: Benesch

Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

AUGUST 20, 2025

Health Canada approves Ozempic for type 2 diabetes with kidney disease

Health Canada approved Ozempic (semaglutide) for people with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease, expanding its use beyond blood sugar control to kidney and heart protection. The approval follows results from the FLOW trial, which tracked more than 3,500 patients and found that Ozempic reduced the risk of kidney failure or serious kidney complications by 24% while also slowing disease progression. The drug further lowered the risk of heart attack, stroke, or cardiovascular death, the leading cause of death among kidney patients. Experts say these findings give physicians a new tool to combat diabetes-related complications, while patient advocates highlight the potential to delay dialysis or transplants and reduce cardiovascular risks.

Source: Kidney Foundation

AUGUST 24, 2025

Micro-RNAs found to be reliable biomarkers for end-stage renal disease related to hypertension, diabetes

Recent research highlights the potential of circulating miRNAs, particularly miRNA-126-3p, as diagnostic biomarkers for chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease (ESRD). The study found that ESRD patients with hypertension and diabetes mellitus exhibited significantly lower serum levels of miRNA-126-3p compared to healthy controls, with the lowest levels observed in the hypertension group. These findings support previous reports that miR-126 expression is reduced in ESRD and hemodialysis patients, suggesting its utility for disease monitoring and prognosis in the dialysis population.

Source: Nature Scientific Reports

AUGUST 25, 2025

CMS Proposes Comprehensive Updates to Remote Patient Monitoring and Remote Therapeutic Monitoring Reimbursement

On July 14, 2025, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ("CMS") issued the CY 2026 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule ("PFS") Proposed Rule. Published in the Federal Register on July 16, 2025, the rule outlines wide-ranging reforms to Medicare Part B payments, including substantive updates to remote patient monitoring ("RPM") and remote therapeutic monitoring ("RTM").

Source: Benesch

Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

AUGUST 29, 2025

Next-generation dialysis must prove benefits of middle-molecule clearance

Since its introduction in the mid-20th century, hemodialysis has transformed end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) from a fatal diagnosis into a manageable condition. Yet patients still face shortened life expectancy, cardiovascular risk, inflammation, and reduced quality of life. Emerging technologies such as high-volume hemodiafiltration (HDF) and medium cutoff dialyzers show promise in removing larger “middle molecules” linked to inflammation, vascular damage, and cognitive decline, something conventional dialysis struggles to achieve. International trials, including the CONVINCe study, suggest mortality benefits for HDF, while early research on medium cutoff membranes indicates improved biomarkers and patient-reported outcomes. However, evidence gaps remain, particularly around hard outcomes like cardiovascular mortality and hospitalization. Large, randomized trials such as the MODEL study are now underway to establish whether middle-molecule clearance translates into meaningful patient benefits.

Source: Healio (sub. req.)

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Nuclear Care Partners launches Care+ Kidney program for atomic workers with CKD

Nuclear Care Partners introduced Care+ Kidney, a specialized in-home program for former Department of Energy and nuclear weapons workers living with chronic kidney disease (CKD). Many of these patients face kidney complications tied to toxic exposures such as heavy metals and asbestos. Developed by nurses with expertise in occupational illness, the program provides personalized, outcomes-driven support that reinforces nephrologists' treatment plans while addressing the complex needs of this underserved group. Covered under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, Care+ Kidney aims to reduce hospitalizations, improve adherence, and slow disease progression, while easing the burden on families.

Source: HIT Consultant

Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

VAC, ASC and Office-Based Labs

AUGUST 5, 2025

Fresenius Medical Care lowers U.S. growth outlook after flu season drives higher mortality

Fresenius Medical Care, the world's largest dialysis provider, missed earnings expectations in Q2 as a severe U.S. flu season led to higher patient mortality and missed treatments. The company reported adjusted operating income of \$550 million, below analysts' estimates of \$568 million, though revenue rose 5% to \$5.54 billion. CEO Helen Giza noted strong patient referral momentum but said elevated mortality offset these gains, resulting in flat same-market treatment growth in the U.S. FMC cut its 2025 U.S. growth guidance to flat or slightly positive, down from earlier projections of more than 0.5%. Shares fell up to 7% before stabilizing at a 4% loss. Despite challenges, FMC reaffirmed its full-year outlook and announced the first tranche of a \$1.15 billion share buyback.

Source: Reuters (sub. req.)

AUGUST 8, 2025

Quest Diagnostics expands dialysis testing services with Spectra Labs acquisition

Quest Diagnostics completed its acquisition of select clinical testing assets from Spectra Laboratories, a Fresenius Medical Care subsidiary specializing in renal diagnostics. The deal enables Quest to provide dialysis-related clinical testing to independent clinics previously served by Spectra, with a further acquisition of dialysis-related water testing assets expected by the end of 2025. Under a separate agreement, Quest will also deliver lab services for Fresenius' U.S. dialysis centers, which treat about 200,000 patients annually, with the transition set to finish in early 2026. The collaboration is expected to enhance turnaround times by leveraging Quest's nationwide lab network and expand access to advanced chronic kidney disease testing.

Source: Indian Pharma Post

VAC, ASC and Office-Based Labs (cont'd)

AUGUST 30, 2025

Ransomware attack on DaVita exposes data of 2.7M patients

DaVita reported that sensitive data from 2.7 million people were exposed following a ransomware attack this spring. The breach, attributed to the Interlock group, compromised names, Social Security numbers, insurance details, and dialysis lab results from DaVita's servers. While patient care was maintained, the incident disrupted billing and revenue collection and cost the company about \$13.5 million in Q2. Federal cybersecurity authorities have since issued warnings about Interlock's targeting of healthcare and critical infrastructure across North America and Europe. The DaVita breach is among the largest healthcare incidents reported to regulators this year, underscoring how ransomware remains a growing threat to providers, with the potential to delay care and negatively impact patient safety.

Source: MedTech Dive

AUGUST 18, 2025

NDCA accredits Bermuda dialysis center

Bermuda Home Dialysis Services, operated by Kidney Care Bermuda, received accreditation from the U.S.-based National Dialysis Accreditation Commission (NDAC), making it the only dialysis clinic in Bermuda with this recognition. NDAC is the first U.S. dialysis accreditation organization approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to certify providers for end-stage renal disease, allowing it to survey and accredit dialysis providers independently of CMS approval. Kidney Care Bermuda, formed from the 2022 merger of Bermuda Home Dialysis Services and Bermuda Renal Partners, offers comprehensive care for chronic kidney disease, including management, renal replacement therapy, and dialysis for visitors. The accreditation highlights the clinic's commitment to high-quality dialysis care and aligns Bermuda's dialysis standards with those recognized in the US.

Source: The Royal Gazette

AUGUST 20, 2025

Court upholds MetLife denial of dialysis-related accidental death claim

A federal court in Minnesota ruled that Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. (MetLife) properly denied a \$170,000 accidental death benefit claim after a woman died due to an error during an in-home dialysis treatment. The court found that MetLife's plan excludes coverage for deaths where treatment of a physical illness contributed to the death, and it was not an abuse of discretion to apply this exclusion to an accident occurring during kidney disease treatment. This decision highlights the legal complexities surrounding insurance coverage for dialysis-related incidents, particularly in home-based care settings, and underscores the importance of understanding policy exclusions for patients with end-stage renal disease receiving dialysis at home.

Source: Bloomberg Law (sub. req.)

Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

For more information regarding our nephrology, dialysis
and office-based lab experience, or
if you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact:

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