



# 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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[jgreis@beneschlaw.com](mailto:jgreis@beneschlaw.com)

[jcilek@beneschlaw.com](mailto:jcilek@beneschlaw.com)

### Calendar of Events

MARCH 13–16, 2025

**Annual Dialysis Conference, 45th Year Anniversary**

Las Vegas, NV

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

MARCH 17–19, 2025

**7th CKD Drug Development Summit 2025**

Boston, MA

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

MARCH 29–APRIL 2, 2025

**SIR: 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting**

Nashville, TN

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

APRIL 3–6, 2025

**Renal Physicians Association 2025 Annual Meeting**

Las Vegas, NV

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025

**Legal and Practical Considerations for Recruiting Overseas Healthcare Workers under the Trump Administration**

Webinar: 1:00–2:00 P.M.

To register, please click [here](#).

APRIL 23–24, 2025 | VIRTUAL

**RHA Virtual Spring Meeting  
Empowering Solutions: Current Trends & Challenges in Dialysis**

Join us for an impactful event where dialysis providers address key challenges in renal healthcare. Designed for all levels of experience, this meeting offers practical insights to advance your dialysis services.

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

APRIL 25–27, 2025

**2025 AAP/ASCI/APSA Joint Meeting**

Chicago, IL

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

MAY 1–3, 2025

**2025 OEIS Scientific Meeting**

Orlando, FL

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

MAY 1–4, 2025

**ANNA National Symposium**

Portland, OR

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

MAY 14, 2025

**RHA Day on the Hill**

Washington, DC

The Renal Healthcare Association advocates for dialysis providers and ESRD patients by shaping policy and engaging lawmakers to address key challenges. Save the date for Day on the Hill 2025 on May 14, where kidney care professionals can join us to advance critical advocacy efforts.

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

AUGUST 12–17, 2025

**Nephrology Business Leadership Conference**

Plano, TX

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

*continued on next page*

## Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

### Calendar of Events (cont'd)

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SEPTEMBER 17–19, 2025

**RHA Annual Conference**

Orlando, FL

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

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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](#).

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SEPTEMBER 26–28, 2025

**ANNA: 2025 Nephrology Nursing Summit**

Charlotte, NC

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

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NOVEMBER 5–9, 2025

**ASN Kidney Week 2025**

Houston, TX

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

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MARCH 19–21, 2026

**2026 OEIS Scientific Meeting**

Las Vegas, NV (*details to come*)

*continued on next page*



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# Benesch Healthcare+ Fifth Annual Nephrology and Dialysis Conference

**Thursday, June 26, 2025**

**8:00 A.M. –5:00 P.M.**

Cocktail reception to follow

**The Sheraton Grand Riverwalk Chicago**

301 East North Water Street | Chicago

Please join us for this full-day conference addressing business and legal issues facing nephrology and dialysis providers. Hear from industry leaders discussing current and future trends in care delivery, business and payment models and legal and regulatory issues.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

A block of guest rooms has been reserved for attendees at the Sheraton Grand for \$299/night + tax. To reserve a room at the negotiated price, please click [HERE](#) by June 4.

Please contact MEGAN THOMAS, Director of Client Services ([mthomas@beneschlaw.com](mailto:mthomas@beneschlaw.com)) for more information about this event as well as exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities.

If your organization is interested in Exhibitor Hall opportunities, please click [HERE](#).

*\*No CME or CLE available.*

## AGENDA

8:00–8:45

**Registration and Breakfast in Exhibitor Hall**

8:45–9:00

**Opening Remarks**

SCOTT DOWNING AND JASON GREIS, Partners,  
*Benesch Healthcare+*

9:00–9:30

**Keynote Address**

KEITH BELLOVICH, D.O., President, *Renal Physicians Association*

9:30–10:15

**Healthcare Private Equity Investment: Happy Days or Headwinds**

Moderator:

JASON GREIS, Partner, *Benesch Healthcare+*

Presenters:

SCOTT KREMEIER, Managing Director, *Piper Sandler*  
ROBERT PROVENZANO, MD, CEO, *Innocura*

10:15–10:30 **Break**

*(continued on next page)*

# AGENDA

## Benesch Healthcare+ Fifth Annual Nephrology and Dialysis Conference

10:30–11:15

### Research Opportunities in Nephrology and Dialysis

Moderator:

LAURI COOPER, Counsel, *Benesch Healthcare+*

Presenters:

JAN WALTER, President, *Frenova*

HEATHER DIMARCO, Director of Research Operations,  
Alliance and Decentralized Research Networks, *DaVita Clinical Research*

Representative from *Dallas Nephrology Associates*

NANCY CIPPARRONE, Director of Research, *Nephrology Associates of Northern Illinois and Indiana*

KATHRIN ZAKI, Managing Associate, *Benesch*

11:15–12:00

### The Future of Kidney Transplantation

Moderator:

JAKE CILEK, Partner, , *Benesch Healthcare+*

Presenters:

MICHAEL A. REAS, M.D., PhD., *UToledo Health*

12:00–1:30 Lunch

1:30–2:15

### Artificial Intelligence in Medicine

Moderator:

NICK ADAMSON, Associate, *Benesch Healthcare+*

Presenters:

GILBERT VILLAFOR, Partner, *Benesch*

ALLISON GILLIGAN, *Healthmap Solutions*

SARAVAN BALAMUTHUSAMY, Founder, *OptMyCare*

2:15–3:00

### As the Dust Settles on Current VBC Models, What Comes Next?

Moderator:

NESKO RADOVIC, Senior Managing Associate, *Benesch Healthcare+*

Presenters:

ALEX PORTET, Chief Operating Officer, Value-Based Care,  
*U.S. Renal Care*

TIMOTHY PFLEDERER, M.D., Chief Medical Officer,  
*Evergreen Nephrology*

3:00–3:15 Break

3:15–4:15

### Innovative Kidney Care Companies to Know

Moderator:

CHRIS DEGRANDE, Partner, *Benesch Healthcare+*

Companies:

*Neway Labs*—BRYAN THOMPSON, Chief Executive Officer

*Laminate Medical*—ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ, PhD., VP  
Market Access

*VenoStent*—TIMOTHY BOIRE, Chief Executive Officer

*Phraxis*—ALEX YEVLIN, Chief Executive Officer

*Mozarc Medical*—MIKE SERLE, Senior Director, Global  
Medical & Clinical Affairs

4:15–5:00

### An Update on Federal and State Laws to Regulate Non-Compete Covenants

J. Scott Humphrey, Partner, *Benesch*

5:00–6:30 Cocktail Reception



Please contact MEGAN THOMAS, Director of Client Services ([mthomas@beneschlaw.com](mailto:mthomas@beneschlaw.com)) for more information about this event as well as exhibitor and [sponsorship opportunities](#).

# Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities Benesch Healthcare+ Fifth Annual Nephrology and Dialysis Conference

**Thursday, June 26, 2025**

**8:00 A.M. –5:00 P.M.**

Cocktail reception to follow

**The Sheraton Grand Riverwalk Chicago**

301 East North Water Street | Chicago

**Conference Registration** ..... \$250

Please register and pay [HERE](#).

**Break Sponsorships** ..... \$2000 (two slots)

- Logo
- Spotlight
- 4 free registrations
- List of attendees week before

To purchase a break sponsorship,  
please register and pay [HERE](#).

**Exhibitor Space** ..... \$1000

- Logo
- Overview of company within handout
- 2 free conference registrations
- List of attendees week before

To purchase an exhibitor table,  
please register and pay [HERE](#).

**Breakfast Sponsor** ..... \$3500

- Logo
- Spotlight with free plug
- 8 conference registrations
- List of attendees week before

To purchase a breakfast sponsorship,  
please register and pay [HERE](#).

**Lunch Sponsor** ..... \$4000

- Logo
- Spotlight with free plug
- 8 conference registrations
- List of attendees week before

To purchase a lunch sponsorship,  
please register and pay [HERE](#).

**Cocktail Reception Sponsor** ..... \$6000

- Logo
- Spotlight with free plug
- Decorate space with signage
- 8 conference registrations
- List of attendees week before

To purchase a cocktail reception sponsorship,  
please register and pay [HERE](#).

**For more information or to sign up for an exhibitor  
space or sponsorship, please contact:**

MEGAN THOMAS  
Director of Client Services  
[mthomas@beneschlaw.com](mailto:mthomas@beneschlaw.com)

Calendar of Events (cont'd)

Dialysis &  
Nephrology  
DIGEST

**Register today** for the Renal  
Physicians Association (RPA)  
2025 Annual  
Meeting



**ARE YOU READY TO BE INSPIRED?**

Join us under the bright lights of Las Vegas to explore emerging trends and groundbreaking innovations in the kidney community. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity! Scan the QR Code below to Register Now for the Renal Physicians Association (RPA) 2025 Annual Meeting!

**April 3- 6**

**JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa  
221 N Rampart Blvd • Las Vegas, NV**

Here's what to expect during your 2.5 days of learning bliss—

High-level Big Picture presentations

Interactive learning labs

Focused nephrology business management sessions and workshops

Networking and work-life balance opportunities

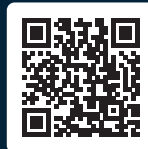
Engagement opportunities with And so much more!

**Act Now – Limited Seats Available!**

Seize this unique chance to stay ahead of the curve in the kidney community. Our event is filling up fast, and you don't want to miss out on the latest trends and innovations.

**Scan the QR Code to Register Today!**

We can't wait to see you in Las Vegas!



P: 301-468-3515 • F: 301-468-3511 • Email: [rpa@renalmd.org](mailto:rpa@renalmd.org) • [www.renalmd.org](http://www.renalmd.org)

## Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

### RPA Insights

As Medicare physician reimbursement continues in 2025 to suffer from damaging shortfalls due to budget neutrality and lack of an inflation adjuster, steps are being taken in Congress to address the issue. On January 31, [the bipartisan Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act \(H.R. 879\)](#) was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representatives Greg Murphy, MD (R-NC), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD (R-IA), and Kim Schrier, MD (D-WA), and as of early March had 103 cosponsors, with more signing on every week. H.R. 879 adds an additional 6.62% to the Medicare conversion factor (CF) between April 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025. The 6.62% increase eliminates the entire current existing reduction, reflecting ongoing inflationary pressures and accounting for the lower CF in the first quarter of 2025. Additionally, the Co-Chair of the GOP Doctor's Caucus, Dr. Murphy, has announced via social media that President Trump had pledged to address Medicare physician payment as part of a longer-term government funding bill presumably to be enacted in the coming weeks.

The Renal Physicians Association (RPA), many specialty societies and other groups in the organized medicine community [urged Congress](#) to finally address Medicare physician payment in the short- and long-term by enacting H.R. 879. Addressing physician pay cuts is one of RPA's 2025 legislative priorities and as such, RPA has developed an action alert on the [RPA Legislative Action Center](#) that all concerned parties can send to their Representatives to urge them to pass the bill. Elevating the voice of nephrology practice is one way RPA advocates for and supports the kidney community. We strongly urge you to spend the 30 seconds it takes to submit the action alert and get engaged in the campaign to fix Medicare physician payment.

## Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

### Nephrology and Dialysis

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

#### **NKF: Mass layoffs at HHS will negatively affect kidney patients' lives**

NKF is expressing concern that the job cuts, which it labeled as “haphazard and indiscriminate.” could negatively impact public health, especially for those affected by kidney disease. It emphasizes the critical need for HHS programs that support kidney health and prevent disease and warned the terminations at HRSA’s Division of Transplantation, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as the NIH, the CDC and the FDA would result in diminished resources for kidney care and impede policy efforts. The NKF also called for a restoration of funding and staff to ensure the continuation of essential services.

**SOURCE: National Kidney Foundation**

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JANUARY 31, 2025

#### **Bipartisan House bill seeks reversal of Medicare payment cut**

Lawmakers **introduced** the bill to reverse the 2.83% payment cut affecting physicians under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. The bill, supported by the American Medical Association (AMA), proposes a 2% increase in reimbursements, addressing ongoing financial challenges for healthcare providers. The payment cuts, which took effect in Jan., were criticized for threatening the sustainability of physician practices, particularly given increasing practice expenses. Congressman Greg Murphy, who reintroduced the bill, says preventing the cuts is critical for the future of private practice medicine. The AMA strongly backed the legislation, which if passed, would go into effect on Apr. 1.

**SOURCE: U.S. Congressmen Gregory F. Murphy**

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JANUARY 29, 2025

#### **Bill passes MS House to remove hurdle to outpatient dialysis, other services**

The Mississippi House of Representatives **passed** a bill to ease the opening of certain healthcare services, including outpatient hospital dialysis, by removing the requirement for a certificate of need. The bill aims to make healthcare more affordable and accessible in rural areas by doubling capital expenditure limits for hospitals and streamlining the application process. The Mississippi Department of Health would be required to publish a State Health Plan annually using the most recent data. The legislation is now before the state Senate, where it’s at the committee stage.

**SOURCE: Mississippi Today**

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## Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

### Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

#### **Innovative Renal Care data breach may spark class action lawsuit**

Attorneys are investigating a potential class action lawsuit related to a data breach at [Innovative Renal Care](#) (IRC). Individuals who received notifications are encouraged to participate in the investigation to understand their rights and potential involvement in the lawsuit. The breach occurred when an unauthorized actor accessed IRC's computer systems between Feb. and Mar. of last year. Data compromised include names, addresses, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, driver's license or state ID numbers, financial account information, taxpayer ID numbers, insurance, billing and claims data, as well as medical information. IRC claims it implemented measures to secure its systems and notified individuals on behalf of dialysis centers and providers.

**SOURCE: Class Action**

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FEBRUARY 4, 2025

#### **NM dialysis clinic eligible for tax deduction under state law says appeals court**

The appeals court [ruled](#) that Home Dialysis of New Mexico is eligible for a healthcare practitioner deduction under state law. The court found the company provides in-home dialysis services and isn't solely a licensed outpatient facility, which was a requirement for exclusion from the deduction according to the state's tax agency. The judge stated the tax agency's original interpretation of the statute was incorrect.

**SOURCE: Bloomberg Tax (sub. rec.)**

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MARCH 4, 2025

#### **Fresenius Sells Fresenius Medical Care Stake For \$1.15 Billion**

Fresenius SE announced it raised around 1.1 billion euros (\$1.15 billion) by selling 10.6 million shares of Fresenius Medical Care and issuing 600 million euros in senior unsecured bonds. This move aims to strengthen the company's balance sheet and reduce leverage. Despite the sale, Fresenius will remain the largest shareholder in Fresenius Medical Care with at least a 25% stake plus one share.

**SOURCE: Fresenius Medical Care**

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## Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

### Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

#### **Fresenius Shares Jump After Higher Profit, Dividend Payout**

Fresenius SE declared a dividend for 2024 and forecasted growth in earnings and sales for the year. Shares surged 6.8% to 39.05 euros, their highest in three years. Fourth-quarter net profit was 390 million euros, with revenue up 7% to 5.53 billion euros. The company increased its Kabi EBIT margin guidance for 2025 and expects group organic revenue growth of 4%-6% and EBIT growth of 3%-7%. Fresenius also exceeded its cost-savings target and focuses on lowering debt. The dividend declared for last year is 1.00 euro per share.

**SOURCE: Fresenius Medical Care**

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FEBRUARY 13, 2025

#### **DaVita: Net income for FY2024 up 35% over previous year to \$936M**

DaVita reports consolidated revenue of \$3.2 billion for Q4 and \$12.8 billion for FY2024. Operating income was \$565 million and adjusted operating income was \$491 million for Q4 while FY2024 operating income was \$2.1 billion and adjusted operating income was \$1.9 billion. The number of dialysis treatments performed in the last quarter of the year, 7.2 million or 91,786 per day, which represented a 1.4% decrease from Q3. Seasonal impacts such as flu vaccines affected revenue change in Q4 while the FY2024 change was primarily driven by the increase in average reimbursement rates from normal annual rate increases including from Medicare, as well as revenue cycle improvements and an increase in hospital inpatient dialysis rates.

**SOURCE: DaVita**

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## Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

### Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

FEBRUARY 6, 2025

#### **DaVita says year one of KCC program shows importance of value-based care**

DaVita claims it achieved significant clinical outcomes in its first year of value-based care arrangements, partnering with nearly 1,300 nephrologists across the U.S. to enhance the lives of Medicare patients with kidney disease. The efforts are part of the Comprehensive Kidney Care Contracting (CKCC) option within the government's Kidney Care Choices (KCC) model. Among the achievements cited by DaVita include:

- Embedding care team members in 68% of nephrology practices, providing care to shared patients directly at the site of care;
- Overseeing approximately 31,000 patients across dialysis centers of multiple providers, remotely and in nephrologist offices;
- Enabling 2.4x more DaVita patients to have a planned start on home treatment through patient education, care management and transition support;
- Screening 67% of patients for depression remission, supporting holistic care of both physical and mental health; and
- Increasing patient activation by 13%, indicating higher patient engagement across patient populations.

**SOURCE: DaVita**

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FEBRUARY 25, 2025

#### **Fresenius Medical Care reports FY2024 earnings growth at high end of expectations**

The German company says 2024 was the second of a three-year restructuring plan. Some of the highlights of this strategy last year included:

- In 2024, the transformation program delivered \$230 million in savings, contributing to accumulated savings of \$590 million since the program began;
- Last year, Fresenius Medical Care (FMC)'s plan to exit non-core and dilutive assets included the exit of clinic operations in multiple markets, including Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and Türkiye. In all, 230 facilities were divested, affecting 8,200 employees and around 33,800 dialysis patients; and
- FMC increased free cash flow by 10%, mainly due to proceeds from divestitures, to reduce its net financial debt by 9% to \$10.2 billion.

This year, FMC predicts YoY revenue growth between zero and a low-single digit percentage, while operating income should increase YoY by a high-teens to high-twenties percent rate compared to 2024.

**SOURCE: Fresenius Medical Care**

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## Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

### Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

#### **Fresenius Medical Care sells lab assets to Quest Diagnostics**

Fresenius Medical Care and [Quest Diagnostics](#) entered into an agreement whereby Quest acquires select assets of Fresenius' Spectra Laboratories, a provider of renal-specific lab testing services in the U.S. Quest will also provide comprehensive lab services related to ESKD and specialized water testing for patients and providers served by Fresenius' dialysis centers. The acquisition will enhance Quest's capabilities in testing efficiency and speed for dialysis clinics across the U.S.

**SOURCE: Fresenius Medical Care**

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FEBRUARY 13, 2025

#### **Humana's Kidney Care partnership with Monogram Health expands to 5th state**

Humana and [Monogram Health](#) expanded their kidney care program to include in-home treatment for eligible Humana Medicare Advantage members in AL, LA, MS, TN and now, GA. The arrangement focuses on value-based care, enabling earlier interventions and addressing the needs of traditionally underserved populations. The program aims to improve health outcomes for members with CKD and ESKD by treating not only the disease but also its underlying causes such as hypertension, diabetes and metabolic disorders.

**SOURCE: Humana**

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MARCH 12, 2025

#### **Scoop: Trump Medicare center to cancel some payment trials**

The Trump Medicare Innovation Center plans to cancel several payment model trials by the end of the year to align with the "Make America Healthy Again" movement and HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s public health agenda. The changes aim to save taxpayers nearly \$750 million while focusing on models that meet statutory goals of reducing program spending and maintaining or improving quality of care.

**SOURCE: Axios / Nephrology and Dialysis**

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## Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

### Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

FEBRUARY 5, 2025

#### **Ten years of Humana data show value-based care results in fewer ED, hospital visits, reduced costs**

Humana **finds** MA patients receiving care under value-based arrangements saw fewer ED visits and inpatient hospitalizations and received more preventive care screenings. The data also show:

- Value-based care (VBC) members saw their primary care clinicians 10% more than non-value-based care patients in 2023;
- VBC MA patients report a 90% satisfaction rate with their healthcare provider;
- VBC MA patients had one-third fewer inpatient admissions in 2023 versus those enrolled in original Medicare;
- Humana MA members treated by value-based clinicians experienced 12% fewer ED visits and 7% fewer admissions than those not in a value-based arrangement;
- Humana MA members receive more preventive screenings than those under non-value-based practices, including an annual wellness exam, colorectal screening, diabetes eye exam and mammograms. Members were also more likely to receive diabetes care eye exam screenings and to meet blood sugar control measures; and
- Black patients visited their senior-focused primary care clinicians 39% more and low-income beneficiaries had 21% more visits versus original Medicare. Senior-focused primary care patients also had 17% more primary care visits, 6% fewer hospitalizations and 11% fewer ED visits.

Value-based arrangements allow for investments in benefits members value most at an affordable price. In 2023, Humana MA value-based arrangements saved 26% in medical costs compared to original Medicare.

**SOURCE: Humana**

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## Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

### Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

#### **U.S. Renal Care program supports team members aspiring to become nephrology nurses**

U.S. Renal Care says the Nightingale Program offers financial assistance by prepaying tuition costs for in-network schools, aiming to alleviate the financial burden of nursing education. The program is designed to meet the needs of caregivers providing dialysis services, ensuring they have the necessary resources to advance their careers. By investing in the professional development of its staff, U.S. Renal Care seeks to enhance the quality of care provided to patients with kidney disease. The initiative underscores the company's commitment to fostering a skilled and workforce dedicated to improving patient outcomes.

**SOURCE: U.S. Renal Care**

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FEBRUARY 20, 2025

#### **Baxter appoints interim chair/CEO; kidney care business stands alone**

Baxter International reported its financial results for Q4 and FY2024, highlighting the completion of the sale of its Kidney Care business, Vantive, to Carlyle on Jan. 31. The business was a significant part of Baxter's operations and its sale marks a shift in the company's strategy to streamline and enhance healthcare delivery. Baxter's continuing operations, excluding Vantive, reported worldwide sales of approximately \$2.75 billion for Q4, a 1% increase on a reported basis and 2% on a constant currency basis. The company also appointed lead independent director, Brent Shafer, a former CEO of Cerner with previous medtech leadership experience at Philips and Hillrom, as chair and interim CEO. He replaces Jose Almeida, who's retiring. In another personnel move, Anita Zielinski was appointed SVP, CAO and Controller at Baxter.

**SOURCE: Baxter**

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JANUARY 28, 2025

#### **Researchers in VA develop technique to spare kidney patients from multiple vein surgeries**

Researchers at the University of Virginia are experimenting with a noninvasive method to prevent vein blockages, which could benefit kidney failure patients dependent on dialysis. Dubbed Pericelle, the innovation aims to reduce the need for repeated surgeries to create new shunts, which often become blocked and require relocation. If successful, Pericelle could improve treatment outcomes and reduce costs for dialysis patients.

**SOURCE: 29 News**

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## Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

### Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

FEBRUARY 4, 2025

#### **Analysis suggests outsourcing dialysis provides clinical, financial advantages to hospitals**

The Sg2 analysis **highlights** potential benefits of outsourcing inpatient dialysis services for hospitals, including shorter lengths of stay, lower infection rates and reduced direct costs. The study analyzed outcomes and costs for 349,361 patients across 546 hospitals, revealing that outsourcing is particularly beneficial in higher acuity facilities. It generally results in: Lower average direct hospitalization costs than at academic medical centers (\$37,893 vs. \$41,853); Shorter ICU stays than at high acuity facilities (8.64 days vs. 9.76 days); and Fewer days in high-acuity facilities when diagnosed with AKI (19.82 vs. 21.85).

**SOURCE: Sg2**

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FEBRUARY 14, 2025

#### **Study finds autosomal dominant PKD patients from underrepresented minority groups have unequal access to transplantation**

A study **led** by the University of Chicago indicates Black and Hispanic patients with autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (PKD) face disparities in kidney transplantation outcomes compared to white patients. Researchers determined underrepresented groups spend more years on dialysis, experience delayed graft function and receive fewer living and preemptive transplants. The study highlights that marginalized groups encounter barriers at various stages, from transplant referral to post-transplant care, that affect access to transplantation benefits. The data suggest unequal access for Black and Hispanic patients holds even when they're aware of their risk for kidney failure.

**SOURCE: Healio (sub. rec.)**

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FEBRUARY 4, 2025

#### **Survey suggests nephrologists rate happiness, balance as below average for medical specialties**

Medscape suggests that overall, 76% of physicians believe happiness and balance are possible within the medical profession. Ninety-four percent of those in allergy and immunology agree with that statement, while at the other end, only 63% of emergency medicine practitioners believe happiness and balance are attainable within their specialty. Sixty-nine percent of nephrologists replied "yes" to the question. Medscape adds that overall, 47% of specialists report burnout and 24% depression.

**SOURCE: Becker's Hospital Review**

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## Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

### VAC, ASC and Office-Based Labs

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

#### **Nominee for FTC seat says agency will focus on noncompete agreements this year**

Their party in the majority, Republicans will hold three of the five seats on the FTC. The third GOP nominee, Mark Meador, told a Senate committee the agency will look into noncompetes, saying competition enforcement actions are “overused and abused,” adding companies with overly restrictive agreements will be targeted. The previous administration tried to implement a total ban on noncompetes but that rule was struck down and it appears an appeal by Biden’s FTC is dead in the water. The current agency chairman, Andrew Ferguson, stated the FTC will strike a task force to investigate noncompete agreements as well as no-hire and no-poach contracts.

Related: [Hospitals want FTC’s noncompete rule vacated nationwide](#)—Becker’s Hospital Review

**SOURCE: Becker’s ASC Review**

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JANUARY 31, 2025

#### **American Vascular Associates appoints Sam Lee as COO**

Sam Lee was most recently a regional VP at wound care specialist [RestorixHealth](#) and has over 20 years of expertise in healthcare management, including a stint at Healogics, where he worked with current American Vascular Associates’ (AVA) CEO Michael Licata. As COO at AVA, Sam will oversee operational strategy, center performance and service expansion. He’ll be counted on to strengthen provider partnerships, enhance patient access and grow AVA’s network.

**SOURCE: American Vascular Associates**

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FEBRUARY 28, 2025

#### **Medtronic discontinues Ellipsys vascular access system for AVF**

Medtronic inherited the Ellipsys Vascular Access System when it acquired Avenu Medical in 2020. In a memo to clients, the president of Peripheral Vascular Health by Medtronic, Dave Moeller, states the system for arteriovenous fistula is being discontinued. No specific timeline was provided for the wind down but Moeller says sales representatives will contact clients about last-minute purchases and completing orders as well as offering alternatives for fistula creation. Medtronic claims the end of Ellipsys doesn’t mean it’s vacating the AV marketing, pointing out the In.Pact AV drug-coated balloon and Fortrex HP PTA balloon catheter will continue to be marketed commercially.

**SOURCE: Medtronic**

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