



MAY 2026

Dialysis & Nephrology

A monthly report by Benesch on the
Dialysis & Nephrology Industry

Digest

In This Issue

PAGE 2

Calendar of Events

PAGE 6

Nephrology and Dialysis

The LEAD Model-Kidney Care's Value-Based Care Journey LEADs Here

Vascular Practice and Physician Agree to Pay More Than \$6.73M to Settle False Claims Act Allegations of Unnecessary Vascular Interventional Procedures

CMS Clarifies Expectations for Temporary Removal of Deemed Status

FDA launches program to speed up drug approval timelines

FDA, CMS outline initiative to speed up medical device access

Johnson & Johnson agrees to acquire Atraverse Medical

PAGE 7

Medical City Denton opens cardiovascular ICU

ALYKA Health to participate in CMS ACCESS Model

Bill to clarify Medicare coverage for dialysis introduced in House

CerraCap invests in AI-bio precision medicine company Nephronomics

Medtronic acquires medical device company CathWorks

PAGE 8

HHS launches KidneyX Empower Prize Challenge

Bipartisan legislation expanding Medicare coverage for dialysis patients introduced

Appeals court strikes down California's dialysis law

FDA expands approval for drug to treat rare kidney disease

PAGE 9

AIP to acquire Avanos Medical in \$1.27 billion deal

Evergreen Nephrology Launches AI-Powered Care Model Through Partnership with Phamily, Expanding National Nephrology Network Capabilities

The National Kidney Registry launches the Nutcracker Care Network

Heartflow sues Cleerly over misuse of patented cardiology technology

U.S. plans tariffs on some name-brand medicines

Calendar of Events

MAY 20-22, 2026

Vascular Access Society of the Americas 2026 Symposium

Salt Lake City, UT

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

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2026

RPA Fall Advocacy Weekend

Washington, D.C.

OCTOBER 21-25, 2026

ASN: Kidney Week 2026

Denver, CO

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

A recruitment graphic for the Renal Physicians Association (RPA). It features a woman on the left and a man on the right, both smiling. The word "Why" is written in a large, orange, cursive font, and "JOIN RPA" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif font below it. The background is a dark blue with a pattern of small white dots. Below the main text, there are five orange-bordered boxes, each containing a benefit of joining RPA. At the bottom, the RPA logo is displayed, followed by the text "Renal Physicians Association" and "JOIN TODAY!" in large, orange, bold letters. A black bar at the very bottom contains contact information: "P: 301-468-3515 • F: 301-468-3511 • Email: rpa@renalmd.org • www.renalmd.org".

Why
JOIN RPA

RPA is the trusted voice and advocate for nephrology practice, equipping kidney care professionals with unmatched expert guidance in reimbursement policy, clinical operations, and practice sustainability. Through education, leadership development, and policy-driven advocacy, RPA drives innovation and promotes access to the delivery of patient-centered kidney care.

- Business & Policy Expertise**
No other nephrology organization rivals RPA's authority in CMS reimbursement, CPT/ICD-10 coding, and health policy leadership.
- Practice Sustainability**
RPA is the only association focused on supporting private practices amid the rise of value-based care and private equity transformation.
- High-Touch Member Value**
Personalized resources, coding support, leadership mentoring, and proactive advocacy directly impacting day-to-day success.
- Strategic Partnerships**
RPA's engagement model offers authentic, high-ROI collaborations built on trust and value alignment.
- Future-Forward Vision**
RPA nurtures the next generation of kidney care leaders and champions health equity and access to ensure a stronger, more inclusive future.

RPA
Renal Physicians Association

JOIN TODAY!

P: 301-468-3515 • F: 301-468-3511 • Email: rpa@renalmd.org • www.renalmd.org



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.

sdowning@beneschlaw.com

jgreis@beneschlaw.com

jcilek@beneschlaw.com

Benesch Healthcare Sixth Annual Nephrology and Dialysis Conference

Thursday, June 25, 2026

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.

Guest rooms have been reserved for attendees at the Sheraton Grand and the nearby Loews Chicago Hotel. To reserve a room at the negotiated prices, please use the below links.

Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk

Rooms available on June 25 at a rate of \$309/night + tax. To reserve a room, please click [HERE](#) by June 3.

Loews Chicago Hotel

Rooms available on June 24 and June 25 at a rate of \$295/night + tax. To reserve a room, please click [HERE](#) by May 29.

Please contact MEGAN THOMAS, Director of Client Services (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.

Benesch

AGENDA

8:00–8:45

Registration and Breakfast in Exhibitor Hall

Presented by:  CorMedix Therapeutics

8:45–9:00

Opening Remarks

SCOTT DOWNING, Partner, *Benesch*

JASON GREIS, Partner, *Benesch*

9:00–9:30

Legislative Update from Capitol Hill

ROBERT BLASER, Director of Public Policy, *Renal Physicians Association*

9:30–10:15

Payor Recoupments Considerations: Playing both Offense and Defense

Moderator:

LAURI COOPER, Counsel, *Benesch*

Presenters:

HARRIETT WALL, President & CEO, *LW Consulting*

RACHEL HOLD-WEISS, Partner, *Benesch*

KATHRIN ZAKI, Senior Managing Associate, *Benesch*

10:15–10:30 **Break**

Presented by:  Nsight Health

[\(continued on next page\)](#)

beneschlaw.com

10:30–11:15

Succession Planning and Practice Governance

Moderator:

JAKE CILEK, Partner, *Benesch*

Presenters:

DAVID DOOER, CEO, *Innovative Renal Care*

FAHD AL-SAGHIR, MD, President, *Michigan Kidney Consultants*

GENNY CORDELL, CPA, Partner, *Beard Harris*

11:15–12:00

Artificial Intelligence in Kidney Care

Moderator:

NICHOLAS ADAMSON, Managing Associate, *Benesch*

Presenters:

ADAM WEINSTEIN, M.D., Chief Medical Information Officer, *DaVita Kidney Care*

MANDAR GORI, Chief Business Officer, *Vivance*

DR. HEMANT DHINGRA, President and CEO, *Ncare and The Nephrology Group, Inc.*

12:00–1:00

Lunch Lecture: New CMS Alternative Payment Models

TOM DUVALL, Division Director, *Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services*

Presented by:  **ONEPOINT**
Dialysis Cannula

1:00–1:45

Medicare Advantage: Impact on Patients and Payment Systems

Moderator:

CHRIS DEGRANDE, Partner, *Benesch*

Presenters:

EUGENE LIN, MD, MS, FASN, Assistant Professor, *University of Southern California*

ADAM WILK, PhD, Associate Professor, *Indiana University*
Fresenius Medical Care representative

VIRGINIA IRWIN-SCOTT, DO MBA, FAIM, FASN, CPE,
FACOI, National Director, Specialist Kidney Care, *ChenMed*

1:45–2:30

Cardio-Kidney Metabolic Health: Friend or Foe of a Nephrology Practice

Moderator:

JUAN MORADO, Partner, *Benesch*

Presenters:

SUNEEL UDANI, M.D., FASN, Consulting Physician,
Nephrology Associates of Northern Illinois and Indiana

KATHERINE KWON, M.D., FASN, President, *Lake Michigan Nephrology*

HOLLY KRAMER, Professor, Public Health Sciences, *Loyola University Chicago*

2:30–2:45 Break

Presented by:  **Nsight Health**

2:45–3:30

Advanced Valuation Topics in Nephrology and Dialysis

Moderator:

SCOTT DOWNING, Partner, *Benesch*

Presenters:

JIM CONNORS III, CFA, ASA, Principal, *Pinnacle*

AMIT PAVAN, Director Healthcare Valuation, *Marshall & Stevens*

MATTHEW PHILLIPS, Managing Director, *City Capital Advisors*

3:30–4:15

The Next Step: Developing Multi-Specialty Endovascular ASCs

Moderator:

JASON GREIS, Partner, *Benesch*

Presenters:

TERRY LITCHFIELD, President, *Access Solutions*

DEREK MITTLEIDER, M.D., President, *Vascular & Embolization Specialists*

DUSTIN GREENE, Chief Executive Officer, *Preferred Vascular Group*

PRABIR ROY-CHAUDHURY, M.D., Drs. Ronald & Katherine Falk Eminent Professor in Nephrology, Co-Director, *UNC Kidney Center*

NICOLE VALENTE, RN/BSN, Outpatient Development Architect, *Siemens Healthineers*

4:15–5:00

ACOs, CINs and IPAs: The Best Choice for My Practice

Moderator:

NESKO RADOVIC, Partner, *Benesch*

Presenters:

GARY STELLUTI, Consultant, *Value-Based Healthcare*

PAUL SKLUZACEK, M.D., Chair, *Renal Healthcare Partners*

DAVID MAHVI, M.D., CEO, *Carolina Kidney Partners*

DAN ROBERTS, CEO, Sunflower ACO, *Value Services Management Group*

5:00–5:15

Impact of Trump Administration Immigration Policies on Physician Recruitment

MARGARITA KRNCCEVIC, Counsel, *Benesch*

5:15–6:30 Cocktail Reception

Presented by:  **SOMATUS**
More Lives. Better Lived.®

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



Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities

Benesch Healthcare Sixth Annual Nephrology and Dialysis Conference

Thursday, June 25, 2026

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 sign
• 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



Nephrology and Dialysis

MAY 21, 2026

[The LEAD Model-Kidney Care's Value-Based Care Journey LEADs Here](#)

CMS's LEAD Model marks the next evolution in value-based kidney care, integrating CKD and ESRD patients into a primary care-centered ACO framework. As CKCC sunsets, nephrology providers face critical strategic decisions on participation, payment structures and partnerships to remain competitive and help shape the future of kidney care delivery.

Source: Benesch

MAY 6, 2026

[Vascular Practice and Physician Agree to Pay More Than \\$6.73M to Settle False Claims Act Allegations of Unnecessary Vascular Interventional Procedures](#)

Serrano Kidney & Vascular Access Center and Dr. Feliciano Serrano agreed to pay more than \$6.73 million to settle allegations of submitting false claims for unnecessary vascular procedures on Medicare patients. The settlement resolves claims under the False Claims Act and highlights ongoing efforts to combat healthcare fraud and protect federal programs.

Source: DOJ

APRIL 28, 2026

[CMS Clarifies Expectations for Temporary Removal of Deemed Status](#)

CMS clarified that condition-level noncompliance found by state agencies will result in temporary removal of deemed status for certain providers, shifting oversight to state agencies. ACHC will continue certification surveys and offer non-deemed bridge accreditation to help organizations meet requirements.

Source: ACHC

APRIL 28, 2026

[FDA launches program to speed up drug approval timelines](#)

The program will monitor clinical trial data in real time, to reduce drug approval timelines and enhance U.S. competitiveness. The initiative allows the FDA direct access to Phase 1 trial data for safety and efficacy assessment, bypassing the traditional process where companies first analyze and prepare the data. Johnson & Johnson and other pharmaceutical companies are using AI to streamline regulatory document preparation, reducing the time required for administrative tasks and paperwork from hours to minutes.

Source: Reuters (sub. req.)

APRIL 24, 2026

[FDA, CMS outline initiative to speed up medical device access](#)

The Regulatory Alignment for Predictable and Immediate Device (RAPID) coverage pathway will speed up access to FDA-designated Class II and Class III Breakthrough Devices for individuals on Medicare. The agencies will publish a procedural notice outlining the pathway's structure, after which the public will have 60 days to provide comments.

Source: Medical Device Network

APRIL 24, 2026

[Johnson & Johnson agrees to acquire Atraverse Medical](#)

Johnson & Johnson entered a definitive agreement to acquire the medical device company, which creates left-heart access and radiofrequency technology. Atraverse Medical's HOTWIRE Transseptal Access System is an FDA-cleared system designed to give providers better control when accessing the left atrium. The acquisition is expected to close in the second half of 2026.

Source: Johnson & Johnson

Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

APRIL 24, 2026

[Medical City Denton opens cardiovascular ICU](#)

The Texas hospital expanded its services with the addition of the eight-bed unit. The \$8 million cardiovascular ICU is part of a broader improvement effort, which the system has invested \$1.7 billion in the past 5 years.

Source: [Becker's Cardiology](#) APRIL 23, 2026

[ALYKA Health to participate in CMS ACCESS Model](#)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Advancing Chronic Care with Effective Scalable Solutions (ACCESS) Model is an initiative designed to improve outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries with chronic conditions. As a participant, ALYKA Health will use its technology platform to support Medicare patients by providing real-time health data insights, automated care gap identification and personalized health engagement tools. ALYKA will be available year-round for patients managing chronic conditions, including congestive heart failure and chronic kidney disease.

Source: [MedAxiom](#)

APRIL 22, 2026

[Bill to clarify Medicare coverage for dialysis introduced in House](#)

U.S. Representatives Mike Kelly and Suzan DelBene introduced the Concurrent Care for Comfort Act, which would allow hospice patients to continue receiving dialysis treatment under Medicare. Currently, many patients with end-stage renal disease must choose between hospice care and dialysis, resulting in lower hospice utilization among this group compared to those with other terminal illnesses. The proposed legislation would clarify Medicare coverage for palliative dialysis and establish separate reimbursement for these services when provided by renal dialysis facilities and other qualified providers to hospice patients. This change is intended to improve comfort and care options for patients with kidney failure at the end of life.

Source: [Hospice News](#)

APRIL 21, 2026

[CerraCap invests in AI-bio precision medicine company Nephronomics](#)

Nephronomics is building a clinical and genomic dataset focused on cardio-kidney-metabolic disease, a framework connecting cardiovascular, kidney and metabolic disorders into a unified disease model. The company has access to the largest renal dataset globally, with over 42,000 patients across U.S. dialysis clinics. It is using the dataset alongside advanced machine learning to identify new disease subtypes, uncover causal mechanisms and develop therapeutic targets.

Source: [CerraCap Ventures](#)

APRIL 20, 2026

[Medtronic acquires medical device company CathWorks](#)

The \$585 million acquisition follows a 2022 strategic partnership between the healthcare technology company and the medical device company, which included a co-promotion agreement for the CathWorks FFRangio System in the U.S., Europe and Japan. The CathWorks FFRangio system uses AI and advanced computational science to provide a comprehensive physiological assessment of the coronary tree from routine drug-free, wire-free coronary angiograms.

Source: [Medtronic](#)

Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

APRIL 17, 2026

[HHS launches KidneyX Empower Prize Challenge](#)

The HHS launched the \$4 million KidneyX Empower Prize Challenge to encourage innovations that expand the living kidney donor pool and improve nephrology care. The initiative looks to reduce the long-term fiscal burden on Medicare by prioritizing transplants over chronic dialysis and improving patient care. With living kidney donations stagnant at fewer than 7,000 annually, the challenge seeks solutions to remove barriers to donation, focusing on five pillars: public awareness and mentorship, donor interventions, donor readiness and eligibility, donor-centered outcomes, and center practices. Submissions are due June 15, 2026, for those interested in participating.

Source: Healthcare IT News

APRIL 17, 2026

[Bipartisan legislation expanding Medicare coverage for dialysis patients introduced](#)

U.S. lawmakers introduced the Keeping Individuals with Dialysis Needs Equipped through Year-round (KIDNEY) Remote Monitoring Act (H.R. 8319) to expand Medicare coverage for remote patient monitoring services provided by nephrologists to individuals with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) receiving home dialysis. The bill addresses a current reimbursement disparity, ensuring that nephrologists are fairly compensated for remote monitoring services, similar to other specialists. The legislation would cover device setup, patient education and secure health data transmission, supporting improved patient outcomes and enabling reliable care for home dialysis patients.

Source: U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell

APRIL 15, 2026

[Appeals court strikes down California's dialysis law](#)

On April 7, 2026, the Ninth Circuit struck down California's dialysis law AB 290, ruling that key provisions violated First Amendment protections and couldn't be separated from the rest of the statute, thereby invalidating the entire law. AB 290 was enacted in 2019 to regulate the relationship between dialysis providers and charitable organizations that assist patients with insurance premiums and prevent patients from being steered into higher-reimbursing private insurance plans. The panel struck down provisions capping reimbursement rates for privately insured dialysis patients, requiring charities to disclose which patients receive premium assistance and restricting how charities could use financial assistance, finding they violated First Amendment rights. The California Medical Association, dialysis providers and patient advocates opposed the law, arguing it threatened charitable premium assistance programs vital for end-stage renal disease patients to maintain coverage and access to care.

Source: California Medical Association

APRIL 14, 2026

[FDA expands approval for drug to treat rare kidney disease](#)

The FDA approved Traver Therapeutics' drug Sparsentan for expanded use to treat focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), a rare kidney disorder. Sparsentan is the first drug of its kind approved for FSGS, which affects over 40,000 patients in the U.S. and a similar number in Europe. The drug, already approved under the name Filspari for IgA nephropathy, will now be available for nephrologists to prescribe to FSGS patients.

Source: Reuters (sub. req.)

Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

APRIL 14, 2026

[AIP to acquire Avanos Medical in \\$1.27 billion deal](#)

American Industrial Partners (AIP) agreed to acquire Avanos Medical and take it private in an all-cash deal valued at approximately \$1.27 billion. Avanos Medical makes medical devices for non-opioid chronic pain treatment and nutrition, including feeding tubes and minimally invasive radiofrequency technology (Coolief) for pain management. The acquisition will give AIP access to Avanos' portfolio, which competes with similar devices from Stryker, Medtronic and Boston Scientific. Avanos shareholders will receive \$25 per share in cash.

Source: Reuters (sub. req.)

APRIL 14, 2026

[Evergreen Nephrology Launches AI-Powered Care Model Through Partnership with Phamily, Expanding National Nephrology Network Capabilities](#)

Evergreen Nephrology has partnered with Jaan Health's Phamily platform to launch Evergreen Connected Care, an AI-powered care management service for nephrology practices. This collaboration aims to enhance care coordination, patient engagement and operational efficiency for those with chronic kidney disease, supporting value-based care and improving outcomes across 24 states.

Source: Evergreen Nephrology

APRIL 13, 2026

[The National Kidney Registry launches the Nutcracker Care Network](#)

The Nutcracker Care Network (NCN) is a national collaboration of transplant centers, currently including 14 National Kidney Registry (NKR) member centers, dedicated to spreading awareness and providing treatment and support for patients with Nutcracker Syndrome. The NKR facilitated 15 living kidney donations from Nutcracker Syndrome patients in 2025 and expects to facilitate over 100 in 2026.

Source: National Kidney Registry

APRIL 13, 2026

[Heartflow sues Cleerly over misuse of patented cardiology technology](#)

Heartflow, a medical technology company specializing in AI-based heart disease diagnostic software, filed a lawsuit in Texas federal court, alleging Cleerly misused patented AI-based heart disease diagnostic software. The lawsuit claims a former Heartflow consultant launched Cleerly using copied technology while still working for Heartflow. Heartflow says the competing AI-powered imaging products infringe six patents.

Source: Reuters (sub. req.)

APRIL 8, 2026

[U.S. plans tariffs on some name-brand medicines](#)

Officials say tariffs could reach up to 100% on certain imported drugs under patent protection, but companies that commit to building factories in the U.S. could see tariffs drop to 20%. Companies that agree to lower their prices, matching the lowest prices they offer in other developed countries, could see the tariffs drop to zero. Large companies were given 120 days from the announcement on April 2, 2026, to respond, while smaller companies were given 180 days.

Source: Renal + Urology News

Advertise with Us!

To advertise in Benesch's Dialysis & Nephrology Digest, please contact:
Sarah Ross at sross@beneschlaw.com | 216.363.6178

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

Jake Cilek
jcilek@beneschlaw.com
312.624.6363

Scott Downing
sdowning@beneschlaw.com
312.624.6326

Jason Greis
jgreis@beneschlaw.com
312.624.6412