

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2009

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Fistula First Breakthrough Initiative Session Open to the Renal Community

MIDLOTHIAN, VA (November 4, 2009) – The 2009 QualityNet Conference brings together national health care leadership from CMS, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organizations (QIO), the Medicare ESRD Networks, and other public and private stakeholder organizations to discuss the new directions for quality improvement work at CMS. This year's conference is being held at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront in Baltimore, Maryland, December 1-3, 2009.

The Fistula First Breakthrough Initiative (FFBI) will present on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 from 10:30 a.m. – noon. The session, which is open to the renal community, will focus on the FFBI strategic plan's number one strategy: Nephrologist as Leader. John Sadler, MD, who has worked with the renal program since inception and Nathan Hellman, MD, a nephrology fellow from Brigham and Woman's Hospital, will co-present the evolution of nephrology practice and its impact on the AV fistula rates.

“This session will provide an opportunity for the renal community to hear from an experienced nephrologist about the challenges of vascular access and then learn what we can expect from the next generation of nephrologists,” says Jay Wish, MD, FFBI Clinical Consultant.

The session participants can expect a full FFBI overview and the release of two new change concepts!

Registration for the FFBI Session is required. Interested parties can register at <http://www.qualitynetonline.com/>.

About the Fistula First Breakthrough Initiative

The Fistula First Breakthrough Coalition, consisting of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, ESRD Networks, and the entire renal community, works together to ensure that every suitable hemodialysis patient will receive the most optimal form of vascular access - which, in most cases, will be an arteriovenous fistula (AV fistula). The focus of the FFBI includes reducing catheter use and vascular access complications, both of which will make hemodialysis safer, more effective, and cheaper for all patients. Founded in 2003, the Coalition and the Initiative are managed nationally by the Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition, which is headquartered in Midlothian, Virginia, and serves as the ESRD Network Organization for the Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. Learn more about Fistula First at www.fistulafirst.org.