



TO: Medical Directors, Administrators, Head Nurses, and Data Contacts

FROM: Susan Caponi, Executive Director
Marc Rodriguez, Assistant Director of Data Management

DATE: January 21, 2009

SUBJECT: Information on Modified Phase-in of CROWNWeb

The purpose of this memo is to provide the ESRD Medicare Providers in Network 2 with information about the phased implementation of CROWNWeb. We have been instructed by CMS to inform you of the following:

On February 1, 2009, CMS will move, in a modified fashion, CROWNWeb from its testing environment to a production/implementation environment. We are pleased to announce that the software is available on schedule. CMS will launch CROWNWeb to a small, select group of providers across the country—both large- and small-dialysis organizations, as well as independent dialysis facilities across the country. CMS and ESRD Network Organizations will communicate directly with the dialysis facilities that will be part of phase I implementation: facilities that are a part of phase I implementation will be aware of their status **no later than Friday, January 23, 2009.**

Until your facility is phased in to CROWNWeb implementation, you **must** continue with your normal business operations and reporting requirements as usual. This includes using the SIMS, VISION, and paper-based data (forms and report) submissions. Facilities that are not part of the first phase of implementation may continue to meet their requirements under the ESRD conditions for coverage by continuing to use these submission methods.

CROWNWeb training is still on schedule, so if you have registered for one of the upcoming face-to-face training sessions, please continue to make plans to attend. Registration for QIPS (CROWNWeb User IDs/Password) and Batch (Delegation of Authority) continues. Support will be available to dialysis facilities from their local ESRD Network Organizations. Facilities can also call the **CROWN Help Desk at 888-ESRD-HD1 or email ESRDHD1@esrd.net**. The ESRD Network of New York will continue to communicate information to facilities as it becomes available.

Susan Caponi
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End Stage Renal Disease Network of NY

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