

## D-Notes from Network #15

You New? Who Knew!?!

Go to:

[esrdnet15.org/newPersonnel.htm](http://esrdnet15.org/newPersonnel.htm)

### Important July Dates:

- **July 4<sup>th</sup>** – National Holiday – Network #15 Closed
- **July 10<sup>th</sup>** – June PARs Due
- **Last week in July** – Second Quarter Rosters to be Mailed by Network #15

### Clarifying Reasons for Discontinue

Question #13 on the CMS-2746 (Death Notification Form) is one that frequently causes confusion. This question asks whether the patient has discontinued dialysis prior to death. If the answer is yes, the second half of this question (“If yes, check one of the following”) **MUST** be completed. Multiple choices are provided to indicate the reason for patient’s decision to discontinue. Unfortunately, people often either leave the second half of this question blank, or they select “other” and write “it was patient’s choice to stop dialysis.”

This may be true, but the real question being asked is, “What led to the patient’s decision to stop dialysis?” Frequently, it is because patients are tired of dialysis or are consistently in poor health (categorized as “failure to thrive”) or have escalated medical problems (categorized as “after medical complication”). The choice “other” should rarely, if ever, be selected.

Also, the “date of last dialysis treatment” **MUST** be included and should reflect the date of last treatment at your dialysis facility.

### Crumb-free Awards (or PAR Well-Done)

It doesn’t take much to make us happy here at Network #15. An elevator that doesn’t get stuck and leave you stranded for several hours between floors with a perfume-drenched woman cradling a yapping purse-dog; a crumb-free toaster oven to warm your morning bagel; and legible, complete Patient Activity Reports (PARs). Lucky for us, we do indeed receive many such error-free PARs. That is why we have decided that, beginning this month, we will pick out one facility that is deserving recognition for a form well done. Of course, we don’t want this to create ill-will among facilities – we love you all – we simply love some of you more than others. Heh, heh, heh.

This month, we’d like to recognize the Patient Activity Report from **032556, DaVita South Yuma**, because the PAR was

- 1) completely legible,
- 2) filled out in its entirety, and
- 3) included very specific information in the final column, “Sending/Receiving Facility.”

The PAR was three pages long (a lot happened!), but the facility paid attention to every line on every page. Quite the exemplary PAR.

### Tip of the Month

Paperwork isn’t exciting, or glamorous, or even flirtatious. But it is necessary.