

## Important September Dates:

- **September 5<sup>th</sup>** – Labor Day – Network #15 Office Closed
- **September 10<sup>th</sup>** – August PARs Due
- **Mid-Late September** – Be on the lookout for instructions regarding Facility Updates

## Improving Compliance

Here are two tips to pass on to your staff that might improve your compliance rates:

1. Focus on the middle section of the 2728. Don't forget height and weight, and for question #18 all "yes" answers MUST include the timeframe 0-6 months, 6-12 months, or > 12 months. Then, before sending forms to Network 15, have two people check to see that EVERY question has been answered.
2. Have your Medical Director communicate to affiliated nephrologists the importance of signing and completing their portions of the 2728 form in a timely manner. Doctor's need to understand that their actions can negatively impact a facility's compliance rate which is reviewed by CMS.

## Summer Time is Also Saving Time

Invariably when Network #15 hosts TOPIC calls, a handful of folks end up missing the call because of confusion over time differences. Usually the confusion stems from the fact that although Arizona is in the Mountain Time Zone most of the state (excluding the Navajo Nation) does NOT follow Daylight Saving Time. This means that during Daylight Saving Time (from March 13 - November 6) Arizona is one hour earlier than everyone else in the Mountain Time Zone. (This also means that folks in Arizona miss out on all the fun of "Springing forward" and "Falling back.") The good news is that Network #15 always includes either "Standard" or "Daylight Saving" on handouts for all of our calls. And, we are happy to give you the "time of day" if you want to call and compare your time to ours.

## Tip of the Month: Double Check Your Cause of Death

When writing the cause of death on a 2746 form, you must always use the appropriate numeric code from the "List of Causes" on the 2746. If you indicate the cause to be "98" (Other Cause of Death) you MUST specify what is meant by "other". However, "ESRD", "Respiratory Failure", or "Natural Causes" are not acceptable causes of death--even if this was written on a Death Certificate. Network #15 will have to mark these forms as incomplete if there is no additional cause listed.