



- Together, our organizations applaud the establishment of the Comprehensive End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Care (CEC) Initiative.
- ESRD Seamless Care Organizations (ESCOs) are an exciting opportunity for the kidney care community to innovate more patient-centered, coordinated ways to deliver kidney care and, ultimately, improve the lives of patients with kidney disease.
- Our organizations recognize and appreciate your receptivity to our input.

Joint Patient and Health Professional Organizations Recommendations for the ESCO Program

1. Continue to emphasize the leadership role of nephrology health professionals in ESCOs.
2. Develop appropriate quality metrics for dialysis patients in a transparent manner that allows for input from the entire kidney community.
3. Prospectively specify the criteria that will determine whether an ESCO is deemed “successful” or “unsuccessful.”
4. Recognize that the patients’ perception of success is an important factor in determining whether ESCOs were or were not successful.
5. Facilitate research into and a better understanding of optimal dialysis care by sharing de-identified ESCO patient data with qualified investigators, in a similar manner to the National Institutes of Health.
6. Develop a plan to ensure consistent access to transplantation, recognizing that the best candidates for transplant are also often likely to be the healthiest patients on dialysis, and will not be attributed to ESCOs post-transplant.
7. Establish and explain safeguards to monitor and address “cherry picking” or potential changes in patient outcomes.
8. Reconsider the goal of rebasing the program in years four and five, recognizing that this approach penalizes the highest performing ESCOs.