

FOR DIALYSIS CENTER MEDICAL DIRECTORS AND QUALITY TEAMS

Dialysis Center ESRD Behavioral Health Brief

Reference: ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP) - CMS 2023-2025

THE REGULATORY MANDATE

The ESRD Quality Incentive Program evaluates dialysis facilities on depression screening and follow-up measures. Facilities scoring below the performance threshold face payment reductions of up to 2% of all Medicare payments.

The QIP measure

The ESRD QIP includes depression screening (NQF #0418) and follow-up plan measures. Facilities that screen patients for depression but lack a referral pathway for positive screens fail on the follow-up component.

The prevalence burden

Published studies find depression prevalence of 20 to 30% among ESRD patients on hemodialysis - roughly 3 to 4 times the general population rate. Dialysis patients visit the center 3 times per week, making the facility a natural site for intervention.

The referral gap

Most dialysis centers screen for depression as part of routine care but do not have a behavioral health provider integrated into the care team. Positive screens often result in a recommendation to the patient's primary care physician with no reliable follow-through.

How Total Life integrates with dialysis care teams

Total Life's therapists provide individual therapy by phone and video between dialysis sessions. Referrals from your social worker close the QIP follow-up measure requirement and address the patient's clinical need.

Ready to close this compliance gap?

Total Life provides dialysis centers with a behavioral health referral pathway that satisfies ESRD QIP follow-up requirements and addresses the high prevalence of depression among ESRD patients.

Book a partnership discovery call: totallife.com/partners/dialysis-esrd

Email: partners@totallife.com

Total Life is a Medicare-covered behavioral health telehealth provider. Licensed therapists provide individual therapy by phone and video for adults 65+ in all 50 states. Services are billed under the patient's own Medicare benefits - no cost to partner organizations.