



# Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

A monthly report by Benesch on the Dialysis & Nephrology Industry

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# Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST



Please contact us if you would like to post

information regarding our upcoming events or if you'd like to guest author an article for this newsletter.

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## Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 16–19, 2025

### American Venous Forum: Annual Meeting

Atlanta, GA

For more information, please click [here](#).

FEBRUARY 20–21, 2025

### 4th Annual Vanderbilt Renal Translational Pathology Workshop

Nashville, TN

For more information, please click [here](#).

FEBRUARY 27–MARCH 1, 2025

### 12th Annual UC San Diego Essentials & Advances in Apheresis Therapies

San Diego, CA

For more information, please click [here](#).

MARCH 13–16, 2025

### Annual Dialysis Conference, 45th Year Anniversary Las Vegas, NV

For more information, please click [here](#).

MARCH 17–19, 2025

### 7th CKD Drug Development Summit 2025

Boston, MA

For more information, please click [here](#).

MARCH 29–APRIL 2, 2025

### SIR: 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting

Nashville, TN

For more information, please click [here](#).

APRIL 3–6, 2025

### Renal Physicians Association 2025 Annual Meeting

Las Vegas, NV

For more information, please click [here](#).

APRIL 23–24, 2025 | VIRTUAL

### RHA Virtual Spring Meeting Empowering Solutions: Current Trends & Challenges in Dialysis

Join us for an impactful event where dialysis providers address key challenges in renal healthcare. Designed for all levels of experience, this meeting offers practical insights to advance your dialysis services. For more information, please click [here](#).

APRIL 25–27, 2025

### 2025 AAP/ASCI/APSA Joint Meeting

Chicago, IL

For more information, please click [here](#).

MAY 1–3, 2025

### 2025 OEIS Scientific Meeting

Orlando, FL

For more information, please click [here](#).

MAY 1–4, 2025

### ANNA National Symposium

Portland, OR

For more information, please click [here](#).

*continued on next page*

**Calendar of Events** (cont'd)

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MAY 14, 2025

**RHA Day on the Hill**

Washington, DC

The Renal Healthcare Association advocates for dialysis providers and ESRD patients by shaping policy and engaging lawmakers to address key challenges. Save the date for Day on the Hill 2025 on May 14, where kidney care professionals can join us to advance critical advocacy efforts.

For more information, please click [here](#).

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SEPTEMBER 17–19, 2025

**RHA Annual Conference**

Orlando, FL

For more information, please click [here](#).

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SEPTEMBER 17–19, 2025

**RHA Annual Conference**

Orlando, Florida

**[Disney's Contemporary Resort](#)**

The RHA Annual Conference brings together dialysis professionals, industry leaders, and vendors from across the U.S., offering valuable education, expert insights, and networking opportunities to support the entire renal care community.

For more information, please click [here](#).

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SEPTEMBER 26–28, 2025

**ANNA: 2025 Nephrology Nursing Summit**

Charlotte, NC

For more information, please click [here](#).

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NOVEMBER 5–9, 2025

**ASN Kidney Week 2025**

Houston, TX

For more information, please click [here](#).

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MARCH 19–21, 2026

**2026 OEIS Scientific Meeting**

Las Vegas, NV *(details to come)*

*continued on next page*

Calendar of Events (cont'd)

Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST



**Join Your Colleagues at the RPA 2025 Annual Meeting**

Are you ready to be awe-inspired by the bright lights of Vegas, emerging trends, and breakthroughs in the kidney community? You are invited to [register now](#) for the Renal Physicians Association (RPA) 2025 Annual Meeting on April 3–6, 2025 at the JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort and Spa. [Hear](#) Dr. Katie Kwon’s, RPA Education Committee Chair, vision for the 2025 RPA Annual Meeting attendee experience. View the [agenda](#) to familiarize yourself with session themes and invited speakers

Here’s what to expect during the RPA Annual Meeting:

- High-level big picture presentations
- Interactive learning labs
- Focused nephrology business management sessions and workshops

- Networking with your peers and industry leaders
- Satellite programs such as the Annual RPA Nephrology Coding and Billing Workshop and RPA Medical Director Workshop
- Work-life balance opportunities and so much more!

Don’t miss your opportunity to obtain professional development and business success tools alongside leading and emerging kidney community professionals. [Register today!](#)

Not an RPA member? It’s easy to join. View [RPA membership options](#) and consider joining today!

Have questions or want to learn more?

Contact RPA:

Email – [rpa@renalmd.org](mailto:rpa@renalmd.org);

Phone – (301) 468-3515;

Website – [www.renalmd.org](http://www.renalmd.org).

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Calendar of Events (cont'd)

**Dialysis &  
Nephrology**  
DIGEST

SAVE THE DATE

**Benesch Healthcare+ Fifth Annual  
Nephrology & Dialysis Conference**



**June 26, 2025**  
**8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
Cocktail reception to follow

**Sheraton Grand Riverwalk**  
301 East North Water Street | Chicago, IL

Please join us for this full-day conference addressing business and legal issues facing nephrology and dialysis providers. Hear from industry leaders discussing current and future trends in care delivery, business and payment models and legal and regulatory issues.

Please contact MEGAN THOMAS ([mthomas@beneschlaw.com](mailto:mthomas@beneschlaw.com)) for more information about this event or if you require assistance.

Invitation to follow.

**Benesch  
Healthcare+**

[www.beneschlaw.com](http://www.beneschlaw.com)

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## Nephrology and Dialysis

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

### **[A New Hope in Kidney Transplants: The Promise of Xenotransplantation](#)**

Joe's struggle for a kidney transplant highlights a dire reality: donor shortages are leaving countless patients in limbo. Enter Dr. PK, a pioneering researcher pushing the boundaries of medical science with a groundbreaking solution—pig kidney transplants, known as xenotransplantation. In this insightful video, we explore the cutting-edge science and latest research behind this revolutionary approach. Discover what this breakthrough could mean for patients like Joe, offering a glimmer of hope amidst the crisis.

This video was created by Dr. Jonathan Slater, MD, a nephrology specialist.

**SOURCE:** YouTube

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FEBRUARY 4, 2025

### **[Interwell names president of NC-based nephrology practice to board](#)**

Dr. Michael Casey has over two decades of nephrology expertise and is president of [North Carolina Nephrology](#) in Raleigh. He'll replace Dr. Carney Taylor, who resigned as a director to take up a position in [Interwell](#)'s medical office on a full-time basis. Casey was an early adopter of value-based care models for kidney disease and conducts research into improving treatments for chronic kidney disease and hypertension.

**SOURCE:** Interwell Health

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JANUARY 7, 2025

### **[Evergreen Nephrology raises \\$130M to advance value-based care model](#)**

Nashville-based [Evergreen Nephrology](#) says the funding round was led by [Rubicon Founders](#), [Oak HC/FT](#) and [K2 HealthVentures](#). The investment is meant to improve clinical outcomes and streamline care delivery for patients with chronic and end-stage kidney disease. Operating across 24 states with over 900 providers, Evergreen Nephrology partners with nephrologists and payors to offer value-based care, supported by an interdisciplinary team including nurse care managers, social workers and dietitians.

**SOURCE:** Evergreen Nephrology

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## Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

JANUARY 30, 2025

### **NDAC selected as accreditation provider for Orlando-based dialysis clinics**

Chicago-based [National Dialysis Accreditation Commission](#) (NDAC) will conduct accreditation surveys with Medicare at all seven locations of [Central Florida Kidney Centers](#) (CFKC) in Greater Orlando. NDAC signed a multi-year agreement to exclusively provide accreditation services to CFKC. NDAC adds the deal with CFKC enables it to expand in FL, its third-largest market.

**SOURCE: National Dialysis Accreditation Commission**

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JANUARY 6, 2025

### **SEC seeks to prevent evidence showing no intentional wrongdoing from being presented at fraud trial for two ARA execs**

The SEC accused two former executives of American Renal Associates (ARA) of accounting fraud, saying they embellished the company's financial performance through improper revenue adjustments. An internal investigation led by Milbank suggested the company had improper controls over financial reporting but subsequent documents from companies who worked with ARA previously, Latham & Watkins and Grant Thornton, found no intentional wrongdoing or scheme to deceive investors. The SEC [asked](#) a U.S. District judge in MA to exclude the Milbank evidence from the defendants' trial, scheduled for Feb. The agency dismissed the Latham letter as an advocacy piece to convince the SEC to exclude fraud charges from the ARA case, while stating both documents are hearsay and should be barred from trial.

**SOURCE: Law360 (sub. rec.)**

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JANUARY 3, 2025

### **CA judge issues injunction against Satellite Healthcare in dispute with local union**

The U.S. District Judge ordered [Satellite Healthcare](#) to reinstate an employee, restore annual wage increases, bargain with the SEIU United Healthcare Workers West and rescind unilateral changes to employment terms. The injunction affects over 200 employees at 11 facilities in the San Francisco Bay area providing dialysis and kidney transplant support. The court's decision is pending a final ruling by the National Labor Relations Board on an administrative complaint alleging unfair labor practices.

**SOURCE: NLRB**

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## Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

JANUARY 27, 2025

### **Northwest Kidney Centers participating in pain coping study for dialysis patients**

The [Hemodialysis Opioid Prescription Effort](#) (HOPE) Consortium Trial tested strategies to reduce opioid use among dialysis patients. Participants received either pain coping skill therapy (PCST) or usual care. The study, which included 643 adult patients of [Northwest Kidney Centers](#), found that those who received PCST experienced better outcomes than those with standard care. The trial demonstrates that cognitive behavioral therapy can significantly improve chronic pain management for dialysis patients, according to Dr. Matt Rivara, the chief medical officer at Northwest Kidney Centers.

**SOURCE: Northwest Kidney Centers**

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JANUARY 28, 2025

### **Novo Nordisk reports FDA clearance for Ozempic in reducing CKD risks**

The Danish drugmaker reports the FDA approved Ozempic, a medication primarily used for Type 2 diabetes, as a treatment for chronic kidney disease (CKD). The agency cited evidence from a clinical trial from Novo Nordisk showing the drug slows the progression of kidney damage and reduces the risk of kidney failure. Ozempic works by mimicking the effects of a hormone that regulates blood sugar and appetite. It's the first medication in its class to be approved for both diabetes and CKD which could signal a significant step in addressing the growing kidney disease epidemic, especially among diabetics.

**SOURCE: CNN**

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JANUARY 15, 2025

### **DaVita marks 25th anniversary; claims patient-centered care at core of success**

Since it began operations in 2000, Denver-based DaVita served 265,400 patients at 3,113 outpatient dialysis centers, of which 2,660 are located in the U.S. A further 453 centers are found in 13 other countries, including new operations in Chile, Ecuador and Japan. It notes 15% of DaVita patients are treated at home modality while 8,200 DaVita patients have received a kidney transplant. Global operations are on track to be powered by 100% renewable energy, a milestone DaVita reached in its U.S. operations in 2021.

**SOURCE: DaVita**

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## Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

JANUARY 15, 2025

### **CMS notes over half of Medicare patients in accountable care scenarios**

CMS claims it made significant progress towards its 2030 goal of having all traditional Medicare beneficiaries in accountable care relationships. By Jan. 2025, 53% of beneficiaries are in such relationships, marking a four percentage point increase from Jan. 2024. CMS says these figures include patients in accountable care organizations (ACOs) and other models focused on total cost of care, advanced primary care and specialty care. The increase in participation is attributed to CMS' recent rulemaking and Innovation Center models, which connect patients to continuous care relationships with providers.

**SOURCE:** CMS.gov

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JANUARY 7, 2025

### **Diality begins first human trial of Moda-flx HD system**

Diality, a medical device company, announced the successful completion of the first patient treatment using the Moda flx Hemodialysis System at a dialysis center near L.A.. The system, developed in collaboration with the North America Research Institute, offers a flexible hemodialysis platform with features like variable flow rates, integrated reverse osmosis water filtration and an intuitive user interface. The system aims to improve dialysis experiences by allowing customization according to patient needs and facilitating integration and transportation within dialysis care settings.

**SOURCE:** Diality

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## Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

JANUARY 14, 2025

### **Seven startups awarded grants for innovations reducing water, power use at dialysis centers**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the American Society of Nephrology, awarded the [KidneyX Sustainability Prize](#) to seven innovators for their advancements in reducing the environmental impact of dialysis technologies. The prize, totaling \$7.25 million, was distributed equally among the following winners:

- [Kuleana Technology](#), which introduced a Dialysate Regeneration Module, which enables hemodialysis with just two liters of water per treatment;
- [Micro Nano Technologies](#), which introduced a handheld, water-free, battery-powered renal replacement system;
- [Particle4X](#), which developed SMART PD, a sustainable home dialysis solution;
- [Qidni Labs](#), which unveiled the Qidni/D, a portable dialysis platform that uses a novel sorbent technology to enable nearly waterless hemodialysis;
- [Wearable Artificial Organs](#), which delivered a miniaturized wearable artificial kidney powered by rechargeable batteries and operating with only 300ml of water;
- The University of Minnesota, which advanced a decentralized dialysis fluid production solution that reduces water and energy consumption for PD by 66% and 48%, respectively; and
- Dr. Stephen Ash, who proposed a sorbent technology capable of regenerating dialysate with improved ammonium capacity.

**SOURCE: My Ches Co.**

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## Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

JANUARY 13, 2025

### **Study suggests patients starting dialysis opt for private plans since ACA adoption**

**Research** from Duke University School of Medicine found that following the introduction of the Affordable Care Act in 2014, fewer patients starting dialysis are enrolling in Medicare and are instead opting for private insurance. The ACA expanded access to private insurance for patients with ESKD by preventing plans from denying coverage due to preexisting conditions and promoting state insurance exchanges. The study analyzed patients starting dialysis from 2012 to 2016 and report that new Medicare enrollments at dialysis initiation dropped from 66% in fiscal year 2012-2013 to 44% four years later.

**SOURCE: Renal & Urology News**

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JANUARY 16, 2025

### **NKF: Preemptive transplant option underutilized despite its merits**

**Preemptive transplant** refers to a patient receiving a donated kidney before they require dialysis. The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) reports the procedure has several benefits, including:

- It's less likely a person's body will reject their new kidney;
- It avoids dialysis and dialysis-related complications; and
- It requires a less restrictive diet.

Despite this, the NKF says only 2.5% of transplants are preemptive. As to why that's so, it suggests patients may lack insurance so they wait until they're on dialysis to qualify for public programs. Some may lack the care they need to stay healthy enough for a transplant, while in many cases, patients aren't referred for a transplant early enough.

**SOURCE: National Kidney Foundation**

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JANUARY 23, 2025

### **Mayo Clinic joins SeaStar Medical for acute kidney injury trial**

The Mayo Clinic joined **SeaStar Medical** as the 15th site authorized to enroll subjects in a clinical trial, which aims to treat adults with acute kidney injury (AKI) using the company's selective cytopheretic device (SCD) in conjunction with continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT). The trial's primary endpoint is a composite of 90-day mortality or dialysis dependency in patients treated with SCD and CRRT compared to a control group receiving only CRRT. SeaStar intends to enroll 200 adult subjects in ICUs in the study.

**SOURCE: Medical Device Network**

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## Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

JANUARY 13, 2025

### **Expert suggests RDNs face significant challenges from comorbidities when treating CKD patients**

Rory Pace, a nutrition therapy consultant with [Patient Care America](#), says registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) face challenges when caring for patients with CKD due to the complex interplay of multiple chronic conditions, comorbidities and acute issues. She relates obesity is a significant risk factor for CKD progression, as it is linked to diabetes, hypertension and kidney stones, which can hinder transplant eligibility. However, in advanced CKD stages, the relationship between obesity and death risk is complex, with higher BMI sometimes correlating with lower mortality, a phenomenon known as the obesity paradox. Pace remarks despite that, weight management remains important, especially for patients who may be eligible for kidney transplant, where excess weight and central adiposity are key factors in eligibility criteria. RDNs can address obesity through behavior modification strategies, including personalized nutrition interventions and motivational interviewing to support gradual, sustainable changes. With the growing use of drugs like GLP-1 receptor agonists for weight loss, Pace says dietitians must stay informed to guide patients on how these medications interact with their nutrition plans.

**SOURCE: Healio (sub. rec.)**

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JANUARY 14, 2025

### **ESRD payment system, living donor protections top of mind for ASN as new Congressional session begins**

A focus for the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) as the 119th Congress gets underway is expanding the National Living Donor Assistance Center, which supports living kidney donors by reimbursing their expenses. ASN's goal is to increase eligibility and raise the reimbursement cap to \$10,000. It also wants to modernize the ESRD prospective payment system, which ASN says is outdated and should be reimaged so it fairly compensates dialysis providers and supports the adoption of innovative therapies. The society is also advocating for the long-term extension of telehealth coverage and pushing for the passage of the Honor Our Living Donors Act, a technical clarification related to transplant system funding. Some measures from the last Congress, including a Medicare payment boost and certain telehealth flexibilities, were delayed, but ASN remains committed to pushing them forward.

**SOURCE: ASN**

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## Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

JANUARY 8, 2025

### **American Kidney Fund names UCSD director as first CMO**

The American Kidney Fund (AKF) appointed [Dr. Pranav Garimella](#) as its first Chief Medical Officer. Garimella, an attending nephrologist and director of acute dialysis services at UC San Diego Health, will support AKF's strategic plan to enhance clinical authority and service to Americans with kidney disease. His expertise includes rare kidney conditions and research on biomarkers and drug dosing in kidney disease. He also has experience in policy and advocacy within nephrology.

**SOURCE:** American Kidney Fund

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## VAC, ASC and Office-Based Labs

JANUARY 30, 2025

### **Atlas Healthcare, MedAxiom further integrate operations with CV-ASC joint venture**

[Atlas Healthcare Partners](#) and [MedAxiom](#) formed a JV called [MedAtlas CV](#) in 2022 that leverages Atlas' expertise in ASC development and management, with MedAxiom's capabilities in cardiovascular care. In a deepening of their relationship, MedAxiom is moving beyond consulting to become a part of Atlas' management team, providing leadership in the management and clinical operations of cardiovascular ASCs. MedAtlas CV will also grow its list of ASC services. MedAtlas CV provides corporate development support as well as resources surrounding cardiovascular ASC co-management, staff training and onboarding. The JV can also provide educational tools and webinars for ASCs in the areas of peer review, cardiovascular growth and development and cardiovascular coding and education.

**SOURCE:** MedAxiom

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## VAC, ASC and Office-Based Labs (cont'd)

JANUARY 6, 2025

### **Community physicians say CA hospital's staffing contract violates state competition law**

A group of physicians sued a Fresno hospital after the facility signed a contract with national physician staffing firm [Vituity](#). Twelve physicians of the Central California Hospital Medicine Group and two independent practitioners are taking Saint Agnes Medical Center to court, saying the deal with Vituity violates the state's unfair competition laws and is creating patient safety issues. Saint Agnes countered that Vituity was providing services in its ER, adding the plaintiffs are welcome to join Vituity and continue their practice. Since the contract went into effect, the hospitalists can see existing patients but are barred from seeing new patients.

**SOURCE: Becker's Hospital Review**

**For more information regarding our nephrology, dialysis  
and office-based lab experience, or  
if you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact:**

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