



# 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

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](#).

SEPTEMBER 26–28, 2025

#### **ANNA: 2025 Nephrology Nursing Summit**

Charlotte, NC

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

SEPTEMBER 30–OCTOBER 3, 2025

#### **Becker's Healthcare: 10th Annual Health IT + Digital Health + RCM Conference**

Chicago, IL

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

OCTOBER 2–4, 2025

#### **7th Annual Therapeutic Apheresis Academy**

UVA Pinn Hall Conference Center

Charlottesville, Virginia

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

OCTOBER 9–11, 2025

#### **Society of Interventional Radiology Edge 2025**

San Diego, CA

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

OCTOBER 9–11, 2025

#### **American Vein & Lymphatic Society 39th Annual Congress**

Washington, DC

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

NOVEMBER 3–4, 2025

#### **Becker's 4th Annual Fall 2025 Payers Issue Roundtable**

Chicago, IL

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

NOVEMBER 3–6, 2025

#### **Becker's Healthcare: 13th Annual CEO + CFO Roundtable**

Chicago, IL

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

NOVEMBER 5–9, 2025

#### **ASN: Kidney Week 2025**

Houston, TX

*(Call for Abstracts Deadline May 21)*

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

MARCH 1–4, 2026

#### **American Venous Forum 2026**

Denver, CO

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

MARCH 19–21, 2026

#### **2026 OEIS Scientific Meeting**

Las Vegas, NV *(details to come)*

OCTOBER 21–25, 2026

#### **ASN: Kidney Week 2026**

Denver, CO

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

Calendar of Events (cont'd)

Dialysis &  
Nephrology  
DIGEST

The poster features a light orange background with a white border. At the top center is the RPA logo (Renal Physicians Association). To the left is an illustration of a hand holding a glowing yellow lightbulb. To the right is an illustration of a hand holding a megaphone. The main title 'Advocacy & Innovation' is in large blue letters, with 'WEEKEND' in smaller blue letters below it. The dates 'OCTOBER 10-11, 2025' are in bold black letters. The location 'Washington Marriott Capitol Hill, 175 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20002' is listed. Registration fees are shown: 'Member Registration: \$329 • Nonmember Registration: \$395'. A red banner at the bottom contains the text 'A must-attend for nephrologists and practice administrators seeking to advocate, innovate, and elevate the future of kidney care.' Below this, the schedule for Friday and Saturday is provided. A red button says 'REGISTER NOW!'. At the bottom, contact information and social media links are listed.

**RPA**  
Renal Physicians Association

# Advocacy & Innovation

## WEEKEND

**OCTOBER 10-11, 2025**

Washington Marriott Capitol Hill  
175 L Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002

**Member Registration: \$329 • Nonmember Registration: \$395**

**A must-attend for nephrologists and practice administrators seeking to advocate, innovate, and elevate the future of kidney care.**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10**  
RPA Legislative Advocacy Campaign on Capitol Hill

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11**  
Immersive Mini RPA Nephrology Coding and Billing Workshop and immediately following—Cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Summit

**REGISTER NOW!**

<https://rpa.users.membersuite.com/events/0ad80326-0078-ce15-8026-0b4875874565/details>

**Contact Us**  
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## Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

### Nephrology and Dialysis

JUNE 24, 2025

#### **Concerns grow over for-profit dialysis chains as research links consolidation to poorer patient outcomes**

An investigation highlighted concerns about for-profit dialysis clinics in the U.S., which are linked to worse patient outcomes and reduced transplant access. DaVita and Fresenius, controlling over 60% of dialysis centers, are part of the for-profit companies making up nearly 80% of the market. Research indicates that after large companies acquired smaller clinics, there were negative changes such as less trained staff replacing experienced nurses, increased patient loads per employee and shifts in medication administration. These changes may contribute to higher mortality rates among U.S. dialysis patients compared to other developed countries.

Source: Legal Reader

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JUNE 27, 2025

#### **CMS ends Kidney Care First model, overhauls CKCC framework in bid for sustainable, scalable value-based kidney care**

The CMS announced the early termination of the Kidney Care First (KCF) model and major revisions to its remaining Kidney Care Choices (KCC) tracks, citing financial underperformance and limited scalability. The KCF model will end in December 2025 after losing \$304 million in 2023, while CKCC tracks will continue through 2027 under stricter financial terms. Reforms include benchmark discounting, slashed capitation payments, elimination of transplant bonuses and expanded geographic eligibility. The changes mark a shift toward larger, entity-based kidney care models, with CMS emphasizing fiscal discipline, operational scale and measurable outcomes.

Source: Benesch

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JUNE 27, 2025

#### **California union calls on Bain Capital to ensure U.S. Renal Care, Satellite Healthcare uphold ESG values**

U.S. Renal Care, a Bain-owned company, took control of Satellite Healthcare in 2023. The SEIU-UHW urges the investment firm to encourage its companies to adhere to Bain's policies on fairness, safety and respect for workers. Since Bain's takeover, unionized caregivers claim they faced cuts to retirement benefits and resistance to unionization, despite voting to join SEIU-UHW over 30 months ago. Workers are demanding a fair contract with better wages, safe staffing and protection for their right to organize. Their efforts aim to address staffing shortages and end union-busting practices that they say undermine patient and worker well-being.

Source: SEIU-UHW

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## Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

JUNE 30, 2025

### **Research finds shared decision-making leads to more kidney failure patients choosing home dialysis**

A retrospective study by Danish researchers evaluated the impact of shared decision-making (SDM) interventions on dialysis modality selection and clinical outcomes among patients with kidney failure. Conducted between 2018 and 2023 at a regional and a university hospital, the study found that 68% of patients chose home-based dialysis after the SDM intervention. The study assessed factors such as frailty, eGFR, comorbidities, BMI, ethnicity, marital status and smoking status, with primary outcomes including the selection of home-based dialysis, time to initiation, treatment concordance and pre-treatment mortality. The findings suggest that SDM interventions can lead to better treatment alignment and improved outcomes, particularly for patients aged 70 years or younger.

**Source: Physicians Weekly**

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JULY 1, 2025

### **Girls and black children found to face inequalities in kidney transplant treatment**

Researchers from the University of Bristol found disparities in access to kidney transplants among children in the U.K., with black children and those from deprived backgrounds being less likely to be placed on the transplant waiting list. The study analyzed data from the U.K. Renal Registry and NHS Blood and Transplant between 1996 and 2020, revealing that girls were 12% less likely, children from the poorest backgrounds 33% less likely and black children 19% less likely to be listed compared to their peers. While gender and income disparities reduced once on the list, disadvantages for black children persisted.

**Source: The National**

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JULY 2, 2025

### **Decline of kidney function found to be associated with lower sweat weight in patients with chronic kidney disease**

A clinical trial explored the use of sweat testing via pilocarpine iontophoresis to analyze fluid and sodium homeostasis in CKD patients. The study found a decline in sweat excretion with advancing CKD stages, particularly in end-stage kidney disease on hemodialysis (ESKD/HD), supporting the theory of water conservation in these patients. Additionally, sweat sodium concentrations increased with CKD progression and in kidney transplant recipients, compared to ESKD/HD patients and healthy controls. However, statistical significance wasn't achieved in regression models between sweat weight/sodium concentration and eGFR after excluding ESKD/HD patients.

**Source: Nature Scientific Reports**

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**August 2025**

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## **Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)**

JULY 16, 2025

### **CMMI urged to mandate value-based care as dominant providers avoid voluntary models**

Experts say the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) must shift from voluntary to mandatory value-based payment (VBP) models to meaningfully improve care and lower costs. Many major providers avoid VBP because they benefit more from fee-for-service models and coding arbitrage, limiting broader healthcare system transformation. The authors propose mandatory participation for high-cost systems, modernized Medicare fee schedules and less gameable risk adjustment to align financial incentives with value-based goals.

**Source: Health Affairs Forefront**

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JULY 22, 2025

### **CMS proposes major ASC expansion for 2026, adding cardiology and orthopedic procedures to covered list**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released its proposed 2026 rule on July 15, expanding the list of covered procedures for ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) by over 200 additions. The cardiology community celebrated the inclusion of procedures like cardiac ablation, long advocated for by groups such as the American College of Cardiology. Orthopedics also stands to benefit from the proposal, which includes phasing out the inpatient-only list. Experts say the move supports safer, cost-effective outpatient care and may pressure private payers to align reimbursement policies accordingly.

**Source: Becker's ASC Review**

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JULY 23, 2025

### **DaVita amends credit agreement with \$250M loan**

DaVita amended its credit agreement, repricing its senior secured term loan and raising an additional \$250 million through incremental term loans. The refinancing, along with a \$1-billion private offering of senior notes in May, demonstrates DaVita's efforts to optimize its capital structure and increase financial flexibility. The moves are intended to support operational and strategic initiatives, including potential investments in value-based care and operational efficiencies. While the refinancing improves DaVita's liquidity, it doesn't alter the company's primary near-term focus on dialysis treatment volume growth or address its main risks related to cybersecurity and regulatory challenges.

**Source: Simply Wall St.**

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**August 2025**

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## **Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)**

JULY 29, 2025

### **Strive Health appoints Chief Technology Officer, Chief Actuary**

Strive Health named Tom Hawkes as Chief Technology Officer and Amit Trivedi as Chief Actuary. Hawkes has nearly 20 years of expertise across the value-based care spectrum. He was previously the Chief Information Officer and Chief Product Officer at Caravan Health and Senior Vice President of Product at Signify Health. As Chief Technology Officer, he will oversee Strive's tech strategy, innovation roadmap and IT infrastructure. Trivedi has nearly 30 years of experience in actuarial science, underwriting and medical economics, having previously served as Chief Actuary at Beacon Health Options, Prospero Health, Landmark Health and Tomorrow Health.

**Source: Strive Health**

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AUGUST 5, 2025

### **Ypsomed to shift production to Germany in response to tariff discussions**

Swiss medical technology company Ypsomed is planning to shift some of its production to Germany and increase output in the U.S. in response to the potential imposition of 39% tariffs on imports from Switzerland.

**Source: Reuters (sub. req.)**

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## **VAC, ASC and Office-Based Labs**

JUNE 27, 2025

### **First Circuit rules in favor of Fresenius in whistleblower suit**

Fresenius Medical Care Holdings successfully defended against a whistleblower's attempt to revive a False Claims Act lawsuit. The suit alleged that Fresenius engaged in a kickback scheme by providing free or below-cost services to hospitals and physicians in exchange for referrals to its dialysis clinics, defrauding Medicare and Medicaid. The First Circuit upheld the dismissal of the case, with Judge Lara E. Montecalvo stating that the whistleblower, Martin Flanagan, failed to demonstrate an error in the federal district court's decision.

**Source: Bloomberg Law (sub. req.)**

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**August 2025**

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

JUNE 30, 2025

### **FDA setback delays Unicycive's kidney disease drug due to third-party manufacturing issues**

Unicycive Therapeutics received a complete response letter from the FDA for its lead drug candidate, oxylanthanum carbonate (OLC), targeting hyperphosphatemia in chronic kidney disease patients on dialysis. The letter flagged concerns at a third-party manufacturing facility, unrelated to the drug's safety, efficacy or testing data. To address the issue, Unicycive plans to pivot to a secondary manufacturer with a strong regulatory track record. The company will meet with the FDA to align on next steps and remains optimistic about OLC's future approval and its potential to help over 450,000 U.S. patients needing phosphate control.

**Source: Fierce Pharma**

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JULY 8, 2025

### **Rockwell Medical signs multi-year supply deal with Innovative Renal Care to support dialysis product delivery**

Rockwell Medical entered a multi-year, multi-million dollar agreement with Innovative Renal Care (IRC) to supply hemodialysis concentrates and equipment across IRC's U.S. dialysis centers. The deal includes both liquid and dry acid and bicarbonate concentrates, as well as Rockwell's DAMX45 dry acid mix system, helping IRC streamline operations and reduce storage needs. The three-year contract, with an optional one-year extension, aims to enhance workflow efficiency and supply chain stability.

**Source: Rockwell Medical**

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JULY 22, 2025

### **Somatus surpasses 500,000 patients nationwide, expands value-based kidney, heart care model**

Somatus surpassed 500,000 patients served across all 50 states and DC, managing over \$14 billion in healthcare costs. The company reports significant clinical outcomes in 2024, including a 28% improvement in blood pressure control rates and a 48% higher home dialysis start rate compared to USRDS national benchmarks. Somatus dialysis centers also achieved a mortality rate 20% below the CMS national benchmark and a kidney transplant rate 3.5 times higher than the national average.

**Source: Somatus**

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## Dialysis & Nephrology DIGEST

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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