



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) 516 West Loockerman St., Dover, DE 19904
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January 29, 2019

Corinna Getchell
Office of Health Facilities Licensing and Certification
Division of Health Care Quality
261 Chapman Road, Suite 200
Newark, DE 19702

DHSS Proposed Dialysis Center Governance Regulation [22 DE Reg. 565 (January 1, 2019)]

Dear Ms. Getchell:

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed the Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS)/Division of Health Care Quality (DHCQ) proposal to establish quality assurance standards for dialysis centers thus implementing the 2014 and 2015 changes to 16 *Del. C.* §122(3)(aa). The proposed regulation also gives DHSS the authority to charge licensing fees to offset the costs of performing their responsibilities under the statute and regulation. Dialysis is a medical service that is necessary for individuals with kidney disease. Council **endorses** the proposed regulation as it is a comprehensive regulation that aims to protect the public in obtaining dialysis services from an independent or hospital based center. However, we would like to share one observation with you.

Section 10.4.14 under Patient Rights notes that the dialysis center must provide written notice to the patient on his/her right to "Be informed of the dialysis centers policies for transfer, routine or involuntary discharge and discontinuation of services." Council queries who discharge information is reported to and what happens to the patient if they are involuntarily discharged. We would suggest a transparent discharge policy be shared with all patients and some type of follow up when patients are involuntarily discharged.

Please feel free to contact me or Wendy Strauss at the GACEC office if you have questions on our endorsement. Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments with you.

Sincerely,

Ann C Fisher

Ann C. Fisher
Chairperson

ACF:kpc