In 2008, the Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition (Network 5) partnered with the ESRD Network of New England (Network 1) to develop an innovative training and recognition program to assist dialysis providers in increasing awareness and building a culture of safety among patients and staff. The 5-Diamond Patient Safety Program is a web-based program that provides off-the-shelf educational modules designed to train healthcare professional on various aspects of patient safety. Using educational modules that address various patient safety-related topics, the program objectives include:

- Promote patient safety values,
- Create an awareness of patient safety issues,
- Help dialysis centers learn more about specific areas of patient safety, and
- Build a patient safety culture in every dialysis unit.

The program has been well-received by the renal community and is endorsed by the American Nephrology Nurses’ Association (ANNA), the National Renal Administrators Association (NRAA), and the Renal Physicians Association (RPA).

In January 2014, program staff introduced a revised website (www.5diamondpatientsafety.org) which allows for automation of much of the work previously required of the Networks to administer the program. Registration, for participants as well as visitors, is now required. This enables us to track how many facilities are using the resources and the Networks with which they are associated. We have also reviewed and updated each of the modules, simplifying those found to be overly complex.

There are currently 13 Networks participating in the program:

- IPRO ESRD Network of New England (1)
- IPRO ESRD Network of New York (2)
- Quality Insights Renal Network 3 (3)
- Quality Insights Renal Network 4 (4)
- Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition (5)
- Southeastern Kidney Council, Inc. (6)
- Network 8, Inc. (8)
- The Renal Network (9/10)
- Renal Network of the Upper Midwest, Inc. (11)
- Heartland Kidney Network (12)
- ESRD Network of Texas, Inc. (14)
- Intermountain ESRD Network, Inc. (15)
These Networks provide services to over 73% of patients and providers in the United States, as illustrated in this graphic:

Since the program is automated, it is now available to all facilities regardless of their Network’s involvement. When the user selects a non-participating Network, they are automatically assigned to a participating Network that has agreed to accept responsibility for reviewing and approving their module submissions. All users can print their own certificates and can promote themselves as a 5-Diamond Patient Safety facility upon completion of five modules. The Patient Safety Principles module remains the only mandatory module of the 15 available.

Added benefits of the 5-Diamond Patient Safety Program include:

- Supports QAPI activities related to the Conditions for Coverage
- Enables the Networks to promote provider staff development and education without expending additional resources
- Supports national CMS goal to promote patient safety
- Stimulates creativity and project development at the provider level
- Encourages a sense of community between the Network and providers

As of February 2014, there are approximately 300 facilities currently registered. Since its launch in 2008, over 1,000 facilities have participated in the program. Additionally, DCI, Inc. has selected the program as a corporate initiative, and we are allowing them, as a pilot, to administer the program to their facilities. We are pleased by the growth of the program and its successful implementation at a national level as we work toward a shared goal of increased awareness and greater patient safety.