

From a regulatory perspective, administrators and managers are accountable to many agencies. Dialysis administrators and managers are responsible for keeping informed and enforcing the new regulations among the staff under their leadership. The following table contains a listing of the common regulatory bodies that help maintain industry standards and promote optimal nephrology patient care outcomes.

Name of Organization	Web Site Address	Purpose
Academy of Architecture for Health (AIA)	<a href="http://www.aia.org">www.aia.org</a>	AIA provides comprehensive, coordinated, and contemporary building codes and standards by working with national code-setting bodies; educating its members, allied professionals, and elected officials at all levels of government about code issues; and organizing and participating in building code workshops, forums, and conferences.
American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP)	<a href="http://www.aakp.org">www.aakp.org</a>	AAKP exists to serve the needs, interests, and welfare of kidney patients and their families. Its mission is to improve the lives of kidney patients and their families by helping them to deal with the physical, emotional, and social impact of kidney disease. AAKP is a national organization that includes patients, family members, renal professionals, friends, and institutional members. It is the only national kidney patient organization directed by kidney patients for kidney patients.
American Medical Association (AMA)	<a href="http://www.ama-assn.org">www.ama-assn.org</a>	AMA serves as the steward of medicine and leader of the medical profession and national professional organization for all physicians. AMA's envisioned future is to be an essential part of the professional life of every physician and an essential force for progress in improving the nation's health. Through active advocacy at all levels of the private and public sectors, AMA works to protect the patient-physician relationship, which is at the heart of medicine. Advocacy takes many forms, including public health initiatives, legislation, marketplace interventions, and strengthening physician leverage in negotiations.
American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA)	<a href="http://www.annanurse.org">www.annanurse.org</a>	Established as a nonprofit organization in 1969, ANNA has a membership of approximately 12,000 nephrology professionals. ANNA operates under a constitution and bylaws and serves its members through a national structure, four regions, and over 100 local chapters. Registered nurses and other health care professionals with varying experience and expertise in such areas as hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, conservative management, continuous renal replacement therapies, and renal and extrarenal transplantation comprise its membership. ANNA's mission is to advance nephrology nursing practice and positively influence outcomes for patients with kidney or other disease processes requiring replacement therapies through advocacy, scholarship, and excellence.
Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI)	<a href="http://www.aami.org">www.aami.org</a>	The focus of AAMI, founded in 1967, is to establish common goals of increasing the understanding and beneficial use of medical instrumentation. AAMI is the primary source of consensus and timely information on medical instrumentation and technology. The association is also the primary resource for the industry, the professions, and government for national and international standards. AAMI provides multidisciplinary leadership and programs that enhance the ability of the professions, health care institutions, and industry to understand, develop, manage, and use medical instrumentation and related technologies safely and effectively.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a>	<p>CDC is one of the 13 major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which is the principal agency in the United States government for protecting the health and safety of all Americans and for providing essential human services, especially for those people who are least able to help themselves. Since it was founded in 1946 to help control malaria, CDC has remained at the forefront of public health efforts to prevent and control infectious and chronic diseases, injuries, workplace hazards, disabilities, and environmental health threats. Today, CDC is globally recognized for conducting research and investigations and for its action-oriented approach. CDC applies research and findings to improve people's daily lives and responds to health emergencies.</p>
Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)	<a href="http://www.cms.hhs.gov/clia">www.cms.hhs.gov/clia</a>	<p>Congress passed CLIA in 1988, establishing quality standards for all laboratory testing to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and timeliness of patient test results regardless of where the test was performed. A laboratory is defined as any facility that performs laboratory testing on specimens derived from humans for the purpose of providing information for the diagnosis, prevention, treatment of disease, or impairment of, or assessment of health. CLIA is user-fee funded; therefore, all costs of administering the program must be covered by the regulated facilities, including certificate and survey costs.</p> <p>The Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services (CMS) is charged with the implementation of CLIA, including laboratory registration, fee collection, surveys, surveyor guidelines and training, enforcement, approvals of PT providers, accrediting organizations and exempt states.</p>
ESRD Network Organizations	<a href="http://www.cms.hhs.gov/esrd/default.asp">www.cms.hhs.gov/esrd/default.asp</a>	<p>The formation of ESRD Network Organizations was authorized in 1978 by Public Law 95-292, which amended Title XVIII of the Social Security Act by adding section 1881. Thirty-two ESRD Network areas were initially established. In 1986, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-509) amended section 1881c of the Social Security Act to establish at least 17 ESRD Network areas and to revise the Network Organizations responsibilities.</p> <p>Today, 18 ESRD Network Organizations exist under contract to CMS and serve as liaisons between the federal government and the providers of ESRD services. The Network Organizations' are described geographically by the number and concentration of ESRD beneficiaries in each area. Some networks represent one state, others multiple states. The ESRD Network Organizations' responsibilities include: the quality oversight of the care ESRD patients receive, the collection of data to administer the national Medicare ESRD program, and the provision of technical assistance to ESRD providers and patients in areas related to ESRD.</p> <p>CMS, along with input from the renal community, has reshaped the ESRD Networks program's approach to quality assurance and improvement to respond to the need to improve the care of Medicare ESRD patients.</p>
Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC)	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/HICPAC/factsheet.htm">www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/HICPAC/factsheet.htm</a>	<p>HICPAC is a federal advisory committee made up of 14 external infection control experts who provide advice and guidance to the CDC and the HHS Secretary regarding the practice of health care infection control, strategies for surveillance and prevention, and control of health care associated infections in United States health care facilities.</p>
Joint Commission Administration of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO)	<a href="http://www.jcaho.org">www.jcaho.org</a>	<p>The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission is the nation's predominant standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Since 1951, the Joint Commission has maintained state-of-the-art standards that focus on improving the quality and safety of care provided by health care organizations. The Joint Commission's comprehensive accreditation process</p>

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Joint Commission Administration of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO) (continued)		<p>evaluates an organization's compliance with these standards and other accreditation requirements.</p> <p>Joint Commission standards address the organization's level of performance in key functional areas, such as patient rights, patient treatment, and infection control, and the standards focus not simply on an organization's ability to provide safe, high quality care, but on its actual performance as well. Standards set forth performance expectations for activities that affect the safety and quality of patient care. If an organization does the right things and does them well, there is a strong likelihood that its patients will experience good outcomes. The Joint Commission develops its standards in consultation with health care experts, providers, measurement experts, purchasers and consumers.</p>
Kidney Care Partners (KCP)	<a href="http://www.kidneycarepartners.org">www.kidneycarepartners.org</a>	<p>Members of the kidney care community have formed an alliance called the Kidney Care Partners. Their goal is to involve patient advocates, care professionals, providers, and suppliers. Their mission, individually and collectively, is to ensure that: chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients receive optimal care, CKD patients are able to live quality lives, dialysis care is readily accessible to all those in need, and research and development lead to enhanced therapies and innovative products.</p>
National Kidney Foundation (NKF)	<a href="http://www.kidney.org">www.kidney.org</a>	<p>NKF, a major voluntary health organization, seeks to prevent kidney and urinary tract diseases, improve the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by these diseases, and increase the availability of all organs for transplantation. The goals of NKF are to support research and research training, educate health care professionals and the public, expand patient services and community resources, shape health policy, and raise funds.</p>
Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (K/DOQI)	<a href="http://www.kidney.org/professionals/kdoqi/aboutus.cfm">www.kidney.org/professionals/kdoqi/aboutus.cfm</a>	<p>K/DOQI provides evidence-based clinical practice guidelines developed by volunteer physicians and health care providers for all stages of chronic kidney disease. K/DOQI expands the Dialysis Outcomes Quality Initiative or DOQI, a project begun by the National Kidney Foundation in 1997 and recognized throughout the world for improving the care of dialysis patients. K/DOQI includes kidney disease and related complications, from diagnosis to monitoring and management.</p>
National Renal Administrators Association (NRAA)	<a href="http://www.nraa.org">www.nraa.org</a>	<p>NRAA is a nonprofit organization representing professional managers of dialysis facilities and centers throughout the United States. NRAA members include renal administrators, nurse managers, nurses, medical directors, technicians, and financial/billing managers for dialysis clinics who provide life-sustaining dialysis care to the majority of Medicare end stage renal disease patients. From a few charter members in 1977, NRAA has become a respected leader in the dialysis community and the only organization representing the operational concerns of dialysis facilities.</p> <p>NRAA represents the interests of ALL facilities – hospital-based and freestanding, for-profit and non-profit, independent and large dialysis provider, urban and rural. Through education, networking, information sharing, and governmental representation, NRAA strives to ensure competence and enhance professionalism throughout the renal community.</p>
Occupational Safety and Health Act	<a href="http://www.osha.gov">www.osha.gov</a>	<p>Determined to do something about the high numbers of job-related deaths and injuries to workers in the 1970s, President Richard M. Nixon signed the <i>Occupational Safety and Health Act</i> on December 29, 1970. This act created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), which formally came into being on April 28, 1971. OSHA was established to assure the safety and health of America's workers by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach, and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual improvement in workplace safety and health.</p>

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Renal Physicians Association (RPA)	<a href="http://www.renalmd.org">www.renalmd.org</a>	<p>Organized in 1973, RPA is a national medical specialty association with a membership comprised of health care providers in the subspecialty area of nephrology. RPA represents and serves nephrologists, practice managers, advanced practice nurses, and physician assistants in their pursuit of quality renal health care. RPA members are engaged in diverse activities, including the practice of medicine, teaching, and research, and all are committed to improving the care of patients with renal disease and related disorders.</p> <p>RPA's purpose is to represent nephrologists, practice managers, advanced practice nurses, and physician assistants in their pursuit and delivery of quality renal health care and those responsible for evidenced-based clinical practice guidelines and position statements.</p>
State Department of Health	<a href="http://www.health.state.abbreviation.us">www.health.state.abbreviation.us</a> (example: <a href="http://www.health.state.ny.us">www.health.state.ny.us</a> (New York))	<p>The state departments of health under federal guidance work together and are committed to excellence, to protect and promote the health of our people through prevention, science, and the assurance of quality health care delivery. Each state has a community of professionals who, through a commitment to education, innovation, leadership in crises, customer respect and research solutions for health problems, strive to make the healthiest people in the nation.</p>

**- Developed by ANNA's Administration Special Interest Group -**

Additional Information:  
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