

# Dialysis Facility Compare

## (DFC) — What Is It, And How Do You Use It?

### What is it?

Dialysis Facility Compare is a website provided by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) to help patients/family learn more about dialysis and to assist in selecting a dialysis facility. DFC should not be used alone, but together with other resources. However, the site provides useful information about dialysis facilities across the nation. Hospital acute care and Veterans Administration Hospitals are not included in the list of facilities.

### About the data

The general information about a dialysis unit comes from data submitted by the facility to the ESRD Network in its state. The quality compare data, facility performance in important clinical areas, is obtained from Medicare billing records. Dialysis unit performance is reported with state and national data allowing the user to compare how well a facility is performing.

Annually, every dialysis unit receives a "Facility Report" from CMS that shows the information that will be displayed on the DFC website. Dialysis units are given an opportunity to comment on the data prior to updating the DFC website.

### How do you access DFC?

Unfortunately, CMS has not been able to make this website independent. To reach DFC you must first enter the Medicare website. Here's what you do:

1. Go to the Medicare website: [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
2. Scroll to the bottom of the home page
3. Find the link for "Compare Dialysis Facilities in Your Area"
4. Click on the link and enter the DFC website

### Finding a facility

You can locate a dialysis unit in several ways:

1. By Name (Enter the name of the dialysis unit you would like to research)
2. By Proximity (Enter the city or zip code of the area in which you want to search)
3. By Geography (Enter the state or county in which you want to search)

### What is included for each dialysis unit?

1. The facility address (including map and directions)
2. The facility phone number
3. If shifts are available starting after 5PM
4. The number of dialysis stations
5. What services are offered:
  - a. In-center Hemodialysis
  - b. Peritoneal Dialysis
  - c. Home Dialysis Training
6. Ownership type (independent or corporate)
7. Corporate name
8. Date of first Medicare Certification
9. Link to Quality information (Compare Quality)
10. Facility Profile

### The Compare Quality Data

The data included in this section provides a comparison of the facility performance in clinical areas with averaged performance for facilities in the same state and nationally. The data includes:

1. Anemia management (% of patients with hematocrit  $\geq$  33%)
2. Adequacy of dialysis (% of patients with URR  $\geq$  65%)
3. Patient Survival (worse than expected, as expected, better than expected)

If you have questions about this website or its contents please contact the Network office:  
Phone: 516-326-7767, Fax: 516-326-8929,  
e-mail: [info@nw2.esrd.net](mailto:info@nw2.esrd.net)