

Who Can Be A Part of CROWN?

Every chronic ESRD dialysis and transplant facility is invited to become a member of the CROWN community and to utilize the VISION and QualityNet Exchange applications.

Please note, however, that if you are affiliated with a national dialysis chain or with Veterans Affairs (VA), you may already have a system in place, designed at the corporate level, that precludes your need for the VISION application.

Also, the VISION and QualityNet Exchange applications have a few minimum systems requirements that need to be considered:

- Microsoft Windows 98, 98SE (Second Edition), ME (Millennium Edition), NT, 2K (2000), or XP
- Pentium 200 MHz or better
- 64 MB system RAM or more
- Access to the Internet, i.e. an Internet service provider plus a 56K modem or a direct Internet connection
- Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 5.00.33 or greater
- Microsoft Office 97, 2K or XP
- Microsoft Access 97 or greater

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CROWN Data Flow

(a graphical illustration)

Data flows from VISION to the Network office through the Internet via QualityNet Exchange.

The data is imported into SIMS and feedback is sent to the ESRD facility.

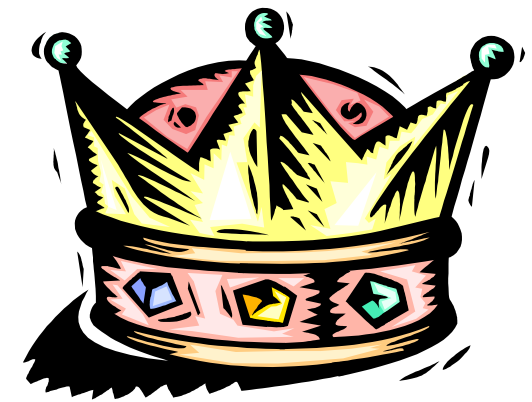
REMIS looks at the data in SIMS and determines the patient's Medicare eligibility.

The end result is information that flows more efficiently through the proper channels, establishing the patient at CMS in a more timely manner, and makes for a happier ESRD community.

Network 4 Is Here To Help

ESRD Network 4, Inc. will provide the software, training, and support for VISION and QualityNet Exchange.

Should you have any questions, call the Network 4 office at (412) 325-2250.



Introducing ...

CROWN

Consolidated

Renal

Operations in a

Web-Enabled

Network

What Is CROWN?

CROWN (Consolidated Renal Operations in a Web-enabled Network), is a CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) initiative to revise the data flow process between themselves, the ESRD facilities and the ESRD Networks.

The CROWN Jewels

The things that make CROWN such a special process is its components, the four shining jewels of this initiative:



1

SIMS

(Standard Information Management System)

This system is used by ESRD Networks to record and report data.



2

REMIS

(Renal Management Information System)

This is a repository that is made up of data from the SIMS and CMS billing systems. It is used by CMS to determine patient Medicare eligibility.



3

VISION

(Vital Information System to Improve Outcomes in Nephrology)

This system is used by ESRD facilities to collect patient data and prepare the data for electronic exchange with the Networks. It was developed by CMS and is a free software for use by the renal community.



4

QualityNet Exchange

This is an Internet-based system developed to allow secure real-time communication and data exchange between ESRD facilities, Networks and CMS.








How Does CROWN Relate to HIPAA?

CMS is bound by the regulations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to ensure strict privacy, confidentiality and security of medical information. To comply with HIPAA, the CROWN environment utilizes a Constructive Key Management (CKM) encryption technology in conjunction with digital certificates and soft tokens. These items provide multiple

layers of protection around the ESRD patient information that is transported across the Internet.

How Does the Data Flow?

Let's use a simple scenario to illustrate how patient information flows in the CROWN environment.

-  A dialysis facility installs the VISION application, acquires a token from QualityNet Exchange and installs CKM Runtime on a workstation.
-  The dialysis facility enters a Form-2728 for a new patient to the unit. This patient data is exported from the software, using a VISION utility.
-  The dialysis facility then logs onto QualityNet Exchange, the secure Internet portal, and the files are uploaded to the local ESRD Network office.
-  The local ESRD Network office logs onto QualityNet Exchange, downloads the patient data, and imports the information into SIMS. A feedback report on this activity is provided to the originating dialysis facility.
-  REMIS reviews the information found in SIMS. REMIS then detects the presence of a new ESRD patient and processes the patient's Medicare eligibility.

A graphical illustration on this process can be found on the reverse side of this pamphlet.