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INTERESTING AMENDMENTS TO INDEPENDENT HEALTH FACILITIES CLINICAL PRACTICE PARAMETERS IN CHRONIC KIDNEY CARE MANAGEMENT

Originally published November 04, 2010 on www.grhealthlaw.com/health-law-blog

Extensive revisions and expansion of the College of Physicians and Surgeons Clinical Practice Parameters were released in July 2010 which may very well pave the way for the treatment and care of chronic kidney disease and dialysis patients outside of our public hospitals which is the current model.

While no amendments have been made to the IHF legislation itself or the regulations under the Act, and the process still requires the Government to issue a Request for Proposals, if an IHF license for the delivery of any insured service is contemplated, nonetheless the extent and detail of these practice parameters contemplate the operation of IHF clinics that will provide all aspects of Chronic Kidney Disease Care from education clinic, pre dialysis nutritional issues, psychosocial issues and vascular access all performed in independent facilities owned and operated by nephrologists or by multidisciplinary specialists.

It appears that the aging population and the challenges of our public hospitals to provide chronic care to large segments of society rather than delivering acute care that can only be delivered in hospital may require acknowledgment of the advantages of outsourcing the chronic care in all respects to their staff specialists in an outpatient stand alone but related facility.

Having the IHF clinical parameters in place is the first step to our hospitals being permitted to outsource these services.

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