

MARCH 2026

Dialysis & Nephrology

A monthly report by Benesch on the
Dialysis & Nephrology Industry

Digest

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Calendar of Events

MARCH 19–21, 2026

2026 OEIS Scientific Meeting

Las Vegas, NV

For more information, please click [here](#).

APRIL 11–15, 2026

SIR 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting

Toronto, Canada

For more information, please click [here](#).

APRIL 16–19, 2026

RPA 2026 Annual Meeting

Atlanta, GA

For more information, please click [here](#).

MAY 20–22, 2026

**VAVA 2025 Dialysis Access
Symposium**

Salt Lake City, UT

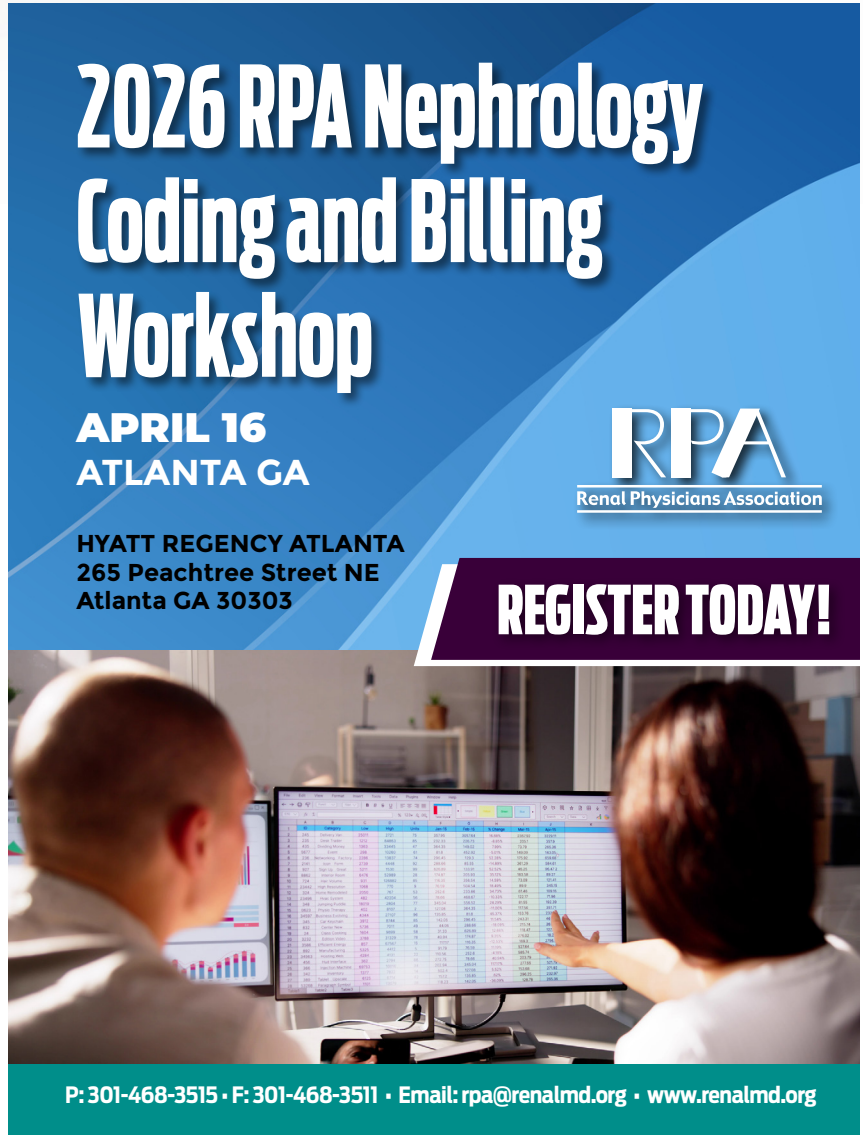
For more information, please click [here](#).

OCTOBER 21–25, 2026

ASN: Kidney Week 2026

Denver, CO

For more information, please click [here](#).



**2026 RPA Nephrology
Coding and Billing
Workshop**

**APRIL 16
ATLANTA GA**

**HYATT REGENCY ATLANTA
265 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta GA 30303**

RPA
Renal Physicians Association

REGISTER TODAY!

P: 301-468-3515 • F: 301-468-3511 • Email: rpa@renalmd.org • www.renalmd.org



Please contact us if you would like to post information regarding our upcoming events or if you'd like to guest author an article for this newsletter.

sdowning@beneschlaw.com

jgreis@beneschlaw.com

jcilek@beneschlaw.com



Benesch Healthcare Sixth Annual Nephrology and Dialysis Conference

Thursday, June 25, 2026

8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Cocktail reception to follow

The Sheraton Grand Riverwalk Chicago

301 East North Water Street | Chicago

Please join us for this full-day conference addressing business and legal issues facing nephrology and dialysis providers. Hear from industry leaders discussing current and future trends in care delivery, business and payment models, and legal and regulatory issues.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

A block of guest rooms has been reserved for attendees at the Sheraton Grand for the nights of June 24 and June 25 at a rate of \$309/night + tax. To reserve a room at the negotiated price, please click [HERE](#) by June 3.

Please contact MEGAN THOMAS, Director of Client Services (mthomas@beneschlaw.com) for more information about this event as well as exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities.

If your organization is interested in Exhibitor Hall opportunities, please click [HERE](#).

**No CME or CLE available.*

AGENDA

8:00–8:45

Registration and Breakfast in Exhibitor Hall

8:45–9:00

Opening Remarks

SCOTT DOWNING, Partner, *Benesch*

JASON GREIS, Partner, *Benesch*

9:00–9:30

Legislative Update from Capitol Hill

ROBERT BLASER, Director of Public Policy, *Renal Physicians Association*

9:30–10:15

Payor Recoupments Considerations: Playing both Offense and Defense

Moderator:

LAURI COOPER, Counsel, *Benesch*

Presenters:

HARRIETT WALL, President & CEO, *LW Consulting*

RACHEL HOLD-WEISS, Partner, *Benesch*

KATHRIN ZAKI, Senior Managing Associate, *Benesch*

10:15–10:30 **Break**

(continued on next page)

10:30–11:15

Succession Planning and Practice Governance

Moderator:

JAKE CILEK, Partner, *Benesch*

Presenters:

DAVID DOOER, CEO, *Innovative Renal Care*

FAHD AL-SAGHIR, MD, President, *Michigan Kidney Consultants*

GENNY CORDELL, CPA, Partner, *Beard Harris*

11:15–12:00

Artificial Intelligence in Kidney Care

Moderator:

NICHOLAS ADAMSON, Managing Associate, *Benesch*

Presenters:

ADAM WEINSTEIN, M.D., Chief Medical Information Officer, *DaVita Kidney Care*

MANDAR GORI, Chief Business Officer, *Vivance*

12:00–1:00

Lunch Lecture: New CMS Alternative Payment Models

TOM DUVALL, Division Director, *Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services*

1:00–1:45

Medicare Advantage: Impact on Patients and Payment Systems

Moderator:

CHRIS DEGRANDE, Partner, *Benesch*

Presenters:

EUGENE LIN, MD, MS, FASN, Assistant Professor, *University of Southern California*

ADAM WILK, PhD, Associate Professor, *Indiana University*
Fresenius Medical Care representative

VIRGINIA IRWIN-SCOTT, DO MBA, FAIM, FASN, CPE,
FACOI, National Director, Specialist Kidney Care, *ChenMed*

1:45–2:30

Cardio-Kidney Metabolic Health: Friend or Foe of a Nephrology Practice

Moderator:

JUAN MORADO, Partner, *Benesch*

Presenters:

SUNEEL UDANI, M.D., FASN, Consulting Physician,
Nephrology Associates of Northern Illinois and Indiana

KATHERINE KWON, M.D., FASN, President, *Lake Michigan Nephrology*

AMY MOTT, M.D., M.P.H., FASN, *University of North Carolina Kidney Center*

2:30–2:45 **Break**

2:45–3:30

Advanced Valuation Topics in Nephrology and Dialysis

Moderator:

SCOTT DOWNING, Partner, *Benesch*

Presenters:

JIM CONNORS III, CFA, ASA, Principal, *Pinnacle*

BRENT SHOCKLEY, CFA, CVA, Managing Director, *Marshall & Stevens*

MATTHEW PHILLIPS, Managing Director, *City Capital Advisors*

3:30–4:15

The Next Step: Developing Multi-Specialty Endovascular ASCs

Moderator:

JASON GREIS, Partner, *Benesch*

Presenters:

TERRY LITCHFIELD, President, *Access Solutions*

DEREK MITTLEIDER, M.D., President, *Vascular & Embolization Specialists*

DUSTIN GREENE, Chief Executive Officer, *Preferred Vascular Group*

PRABIR ROY-CHAUDHURY, M.D., Drs. Ronald & Katherine Falk Eminent Professor in Nephrology, Co-Director, *UNC Kidney Center*

4:15–5:00

ACOs, CINs and IPAs: The Best Choice for My Practice

Moderator:

NESKO RADOVIC, Partner, *Benesch*

Presenters:

GARY STELLUTI, Consultant, *Value-Based Healthcare*

PAUL SKLUZACEK, M.D., Chair, *Renal Healthcare Partners*

DAVID MAHVI, M.D., CEO, *Carolina Kidney Partners*

DAN ROBERTS, CEO, Sunflower ACO, *Value Services Management Group*

5:00–5:15

Impact of Trump Administration Immigration Policies on Physician Recruitment

MARGARITA KRNEVIC, Counsel, *Benesch*

5:15–6:30 **Cocktail Reception**

Please contact MEGAN THOMAS, Director of Client Services (mthomas@beneschlaw.com) for more information about this event as well as exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities.



Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities

Benesch Healthcare Sixth Annual Nephrology and Dialysis Conference

Thursday, June 25, 2026

8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Cocktail reception to follow

The Sheraton Grand Riverwalk Chicago

301 East North Water Street | Chicago

Conference Registration \$250

Please register and pay [HERE](#).

Break Sponsorships \$2000 (*two slots*)

- Logo
- Spotlight
- 4 free registrations
- List of attendees week before

To purchase a break sponsorship,
please register and pay [HERE](#).

Exhibitor Space \$1000

- Logo
- Overview of company within handout
- 2 free conference registrations
- List of attendees week before

To purchase an exhibitor table,
please register and pay [HERE](#).

Breakfast Sponsor \$3500

- Logo
- Spotlight with free plug
- 8 conference registrations
- List of attendees week before

To purchase a breakfast sponsorship,
please register and pay [HERE](#).

Lunch Sponsor \$4000

- Logo
- Spotlight with free plug
- 8 conference registrations
- List of attendees week before

To purchase a lunch sponsorship,
please register and pay [HERE](#).

Cocktail Reception Sponsor \$6000

- Logo
- Spotlight with free plug
- Decorate space with signage
- 8 conference registrations
- List of attendees week before

To purchase a cocktail reception sponsorship,
please register and pay [HERE](#).

For more information or to sign up for an exhibitor space or sponsorship, please contact:

MEGAN THOMAS
Director of Client Services
mthomas@beneschlaw.com

 Nephrology and Dialysis

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Urinary clusterin emerges as a dynamic biomarker for CKD progression, treatment response

A study from the international SONAR trial identified urinary clusterin as a promising biomarker for monitoring the progression of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and assessing therapeutic response, especially in patients treated with the endothelin receptor antagonist atrasentan. The research highlights the limitations of traditional biomarkers like serum creatinine and eGFR for early detection and real-time monitoring, and suggests that urinary clusterin could offer a more sensitive, non-invasive method for tracking kidney health and treatment efficacy.

Source: Bioengineer

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Predialysis care gaps drive vascular access disparities for Hispanic patients starting hemodialysis

A large U.S. Renal Data System cohort study of 427,340 Medicare beneficiaries initiating hemodialysis between 2010 and 2019 found significant disparities in vascular access among Hispanic patients. Although younger and with fewer comorbidities than White patients, Hispanic individuals were less likely to receive predialysis nephrology care and 23% less likely to start dialysis with a mature arteriovenous fistula or graft. Overall, 82.2% of patients initiated dialysis with a central venous catheter. Mediation analysis showed that gaps in predialysis nephrology care accounted for nearly one-third of disparities in mature access use and 62% of underuse of maturing access. Notably, Hispanic patients who began with catheters were more likely to convert to functional access within a year, suggesting system-level barriers rather than biological differences drive inequities.

Source: First Report Management Care

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Health Watch USA to examine COVID-19 vaccination, infection risks in kidney disease patients

Christos Argyropoulos, MD, PhD, MS, FASN, is exploring the clinical implications of repeated COVID-19 vaccination versus COVID-19 infection in kidney disease patients. His session reviews both immunological and nonimmunological effects—including impacts on immune function, inflammation, cardiovascular risk and kidney disease progression—while also addressing the consequences of infection-related kidney injury. Emphasizing evidence-based analysis, the discussion aims to inform vaccination policies and boost strategies and patient communication in dialysis centers and hospitals, while equipping clinicians to counter vaccine misinformation and strengthen science-driven infection prevention efforts.

Source: Infection Control Today

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Rethinking phosphorus management in chronic kidney disease to prioritize patient-centered care

Although elevated serum phosphorus is linked to cardiovascular complications, vascular calcification and transplant failure, most patients struggle to meet recommended targets. Current strategies, including strict dietary restrictions and phosphorus binders, often impose significant burdens, contribute to poor adherence and diminish quality of life, while offering limited evidence of improved clinical outcomes. Key strategies include preserving residual renal function, addressing modifiable factors such as renal osteodystrophy and dialysis modality, minimizing dietary and medication burden, and reevaluating the role of phosphorus binders.

Source: Renal + Urology News

Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

FEBRUARY 13, 2026

Suit claims DaVita pressured patients into at-home Dialysis

A proposed class action lawsuit alleges that DaVita pressured patients into using at-home peritoneal dialysis (PD) treatments primarily to boost company sales and profits. The suit claims that over the past decade, DaVita has prioritized financial incentives—including increased reimbursements and government incentives from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—over patient health by coercing vulnerable individuals to switch from in-center dialysis to PD. The complaint further alleges that DaVita enforces a sales program called MATCH-D, which imposes quotas on employees to enroll patients in PD, with staff facing retaliation and intimidation if quotas are not met.

Source: Class Action

FEBRUARY 13, 2026

Kidney-on-chip model replicates renal fibrosis to advance chronic kidney disease research

Researchers developed a kidney-on-chip (KOC) model to better study renal fibrosis, the main cause of chronic kidney disease. The KOC platform uses a flow perfusion chamber and a reservoir chamber, fabricated with polysulfone to reduce drug adsorption and improve experimental accuracy. By inducing renal fibrosis through TGF- β 1 stimulation, the model successfully replicated key cellular transitions associated with fibrosis. This innovation could enhance preclinical research for anti-renal fibrosis therapies.

Source: AIP

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Roche's Gazyva/Gazyvaro scores positive phase III results

Roche announced that the phase III MAJESTY study in adults with primary membranous nephropathy met its primary endpoint, showing statistically significant and clinically meaningful results with Gazyva/Gazyvaro (obinutuzumab). Results show that significantly more people achieved complete remission at two years (104 weeks) with Gazyva/Gazyvaro versus tacrolimus. Safety was in line with the well-characterized profile of Gazyva/Gazyvaro and no new safety signals were identified.

Source: Roche

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Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

FEBRUARY 16, 2026

Study finds severe maternal morbidity linked to poorer long-term kidney outcomes for women on dialysis

A study published in the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology found that 32% of births to women on maintenance dialysis involved at least one severe maternal morbidity (SMM) event unrelated to kidney disease. Key risk factors for SMM included race, high BMI, and being on dialysis for less than one year. The research also showed that women on dialysis who experienced SMM had higher long-term mortality risks and were less likely to receive a kidney transplant after delivery.

Source: Healio

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

CKD rises by nearly 30% in 30 years

The prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD) rose nearly 30% globally from 1990 to 2017, driven by aging populations and increased diabetes rates. CKD now affects about 11% of adults worldwide, with mortality rates also increasing. In Poland, while over 690,000 CKD cases were recorded in 2022, estimates suggest the true number may be around 4.5 million, projected to exceed 5 million in the next decade. The growing CKD population, including those with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD), is leading to higher demand for renal replacement therapies such as dialysis and kidney transplants. Between 1990 and 2017, global rates for dialysis and transplants increased by 10.7% and 12.8%, respectively.

Source: Doverpress

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Nephrology fellows concerned about addressing health disparities, study finds

A survey published in the Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology found that while many nephrology fellows care for underserved populations, only 61% feel well prepared to address health disparities in kidney care. The study highlights that Black and women trainees reported less confidence in cross-cultural communication. The findings underscore ongoing concerns about health care disparities in nephrology, particularly for Black patients receiving dialysis for end-stage kidney disease.

Source: Healio

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Peritoneal dialysis market predicted to reach \$9.16B by 2033

The global peritoneal dialysis market is projected to grow from \$4.85 billion in 2024 to \$9.16 billion by 2033, at a CAGR of 7.5%, according to a report from DataM Intelligence. Growth will be driven by increasing kidney disease prevalence and a shift toward home-based dialysis treatments, which offer greater flexibility and convenience for patients. Major providers such as Baxter International and Fresenius Medical Care are launching connected peritoneal dialysis systems that enable remote patient monitoring, improving outcomes and reducing hospital visits. Technological advancements, including automated peritoneal dialysis systems, are enhancing treatment efficiency and supporting market expansion. North America currently leads the market with a 35% share.

Source: Open PR

Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Retrospective study looks at hemodialysis sessions from hospitalized patients with AKI

A retrospective cohort study analyzed 423 hemodialysis sessions from 85 hospitalized patients with acute kidney injury (AKI) requiring dialysis, finding that intradialytic hypotension (IDH) occurred in 35.9% of sessions. Significant risk factors for IDH included residual urine output <100 mL/day, vasopressor use, prior IDH episodes, and lower pre-dialysis mean arterial pressure. Serum albumin <2.5 g/dL was also retained in the final predictive model. The study developed and internally validated a prediction model for IDH using generalized estimating equations and 10-fold cross-validation, with model performance assessed by AUROC.

Source: Pubmed

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

B. Braun, bookdialysis.com partner on global holiday dialysis network

Holiday dialysis booking platform bookdialysis formed a strategic collaboration with B. Braun. Through this partnership, B. Braun dialysis centers will be integrated into the bookdialysis network, expanding access to safe and high-quality renal care for patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) who wish to travel. The collaboration aims to address mobility barriers for CKD patients by providing more options for reliable dialysis care while traveling, emphasizing patient-centric care, clinical excellence and innovation in service delivery.

Source: Pharmiweb

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Sarah Ross at sross@beneschlaw.com | 216.363.6178

For more information regarding our nephrology, dialysis and office-based lab experience, or if you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact:

Jake Cilek
jcilek@beneschlaw.com
 312.624.6363

Scott Downing
sdowning@beneschlaw.com
 312.624.6326

Jason Greis
jgreis@beneschlaw.com
 312.624.6412