

EQRS Patient Discharge Guidelines

Use the following definitions and recommendations when discharging a patient from a dialysis facility in EQRS. Contact your local ESRD Network with any questions.

Discharge Category	Definition
Acute	The patient is not chronic ESRD and is not receiving a regular course of dialysis treatment.
Death	The patient expired. The patient’s discharge date is the patient’s date of death.
Discontinue	The patient has discontinued dialysis treatment.
Involuntary	The patient was involuntarily discharged from the facility. The ESRD Network and your State Survey Agency must be notified. Discharges for Immediate and Severe Threats should be reported to the Network within 24 hours. For all other cases, please consult the Network as soon as possible during any discharge planning.
Lost to Follow Up	The patient has stopped arriving for scheduled treatments with no prior notification and the facility is unable to locate the patient. The ESRD Network must be notified.
Other	The patient was discharged from the facility because they will receive chronic dialysis in prison or another country.
Recover Function	The patient has recovered kidney function and no longer needs dialysis (can only use Recover Function reason if it is a native kidney).
Transfer	The patient has transferred and has been admitted to another facility. Transfer Discharge Subcategories: Dialysis Facility, Hospice, Hospital, Long Term Care Facility, Nursing Home, Rehab Center. Never click transfer until you have confirmed that the patient has dialyzed at another dialysis facility.
Transplant in US	The patient was discharged from the facility to receive a transplant within the United States.
Transplant Outside US	The patient was discharged from the facility to receive a transplant outside the United States.

Frequently Asked Questions	Network Recommendations
Can the facility discharge a patient who has been absent from the facility for 30 days or more?	There is no universal rule allowing for a discharge after 30 days of absence. The patient situation must meet one of the EQRS discharge categories above. Contact the Network for additional guidance.
When can a patient be discharged as lost to follow up?	This discharge reason can be used after the facility has exhausted all attempts at locating the patient, including use of police well checks, letters to all known addresses, multiple calls to the patient and their emergency contacts, checking local hospital admissions, etc. Patients who are at home and choosing not to attend dialysis are not considered Lost to Follow Up.
What should the facility do if they believe a patient is at-risk for Involuntary Discharge (IVD)?	Contact the Network as soon as possible for guidance.
Does the facility have to re-admit a patient who was discharged as a transfer to a Hospital, Long Term Care Facility, Nursing Home or Rehab Center?	Yes. If the patient has not treated at another outpatient dialysis facility, the CMS expectation is for readmission to the last facility of record.
If the facility is unsure of the discharge category, can they use "Other"?	Discharge as "Other" is specific to patients receiving dialysis in prison or in another country. Contact your ESRD Network for support if you are unsure how to discharge a patient.