

## CMS-2728 and CMS-2746 Forms: Tips for Physicians

The End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Networks are working with dialysis facilities to improve the timeliness of CMS-2728 and CMS-2746 form submissions. Your attention to the following tips to improve form submission timeliness is appreciated.

### Completing the 2728 and 2746 Forms

- CMS-2728 forms must be completed within 45 of the patient's first day of outpatient dialysis. When signing the CMS-2728 form, a physician certifies that the patient has reached the stage of renal impairment that appears irreversible, is permanent, and requires a regular course of dialysis or kidney transplant to maintain life.<sup>1</sup> It is not required that a physician see the patient at the outpatient dialysis facility prior to signing the CMS-2728 form.
- The Social Security Administration confirmed that a blue ink signature is **no longer required** for the successful submission of the CMS-2728 form. Physician signatures can be provided via electronic signature, secure fax, or secure email. Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) encourages physicians to work with dialysis facilities to implement the most efficient process for both the facility and physician to obtain timely signatures.
- Once a process is implemented with the dialysis facility, please discuss the process with your office staff, emphasizing the importance of timely receipt of the CMS-2728 forms. HSAG recommends that the forms be reviewed, signed, and returned to the dialysis facility within 3–5 business days.
- CMS-2746 death notification forms must be completed within 14 days of the patient's date of death and do not need to be completed or signed by a physician. The dialysis facility may report the cause of death (required on the form) based on hospital/hospice records or verbal discussions with the patient's physician or family. If a dialysis facility determines that the cause of death was reported incorrectly, the Network can modify the form up to two months from the patient's date of death. If you prefer to review the form before submission, please work with the dialysis facility to implement a process to ensure timely form completion.

**For more information and other important tips for submitting CMS-2728 and CMS-2746 forms timely, please review the HSAG [Tips for Submitting CMS-2728 & CMS-2746 Forms Timely](#).**

CMS = The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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<sup>1</sup> See CMS. End Stage Renal Disease Medical Evidence Report. Available at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/cms-forms/cms-forms/downloads/cms2728.pdf>. Accessed on May 28, 2025.