

SATELLITE HEALTHCARE

Community Benefits
Report: 2008





Better care. Better life. Better choice.™

Our Mission:

Making life better for those living with kidney disease

Accomplished by:

- Supporting research
- Providing education
- Ensuring access to care for all patients with kidney disease

This Community Benefit Report provides an overview of programs and activities that allow Satellite Healthcare to meet and to exceed our organization's heritage as a not-for-profit dialysis provider.



Overview of Chronic Kidney Disease and the End Stage Renal Disease Community

Chronic Kidney Disease (“CKD”) is a public health problem in the United States that impacts approximately 26 million Americans. It is well known that hypertension and diabetes are two leading causes of kidney failure. The 2009 United States Renal Data System Report¹ shows that of the 520,000 Americans who live with End Stage Renal Disease (“ESRD”), over 368,000 are treated by dialysis and over 158,000 have received a kidney transplant.

Various factors have contributed to improved patient outcomes and have strengthened the ESRD community:

- High quality dialysis services
- An increase of successful kidney transplants
- More effective drugs and drug therapies
- The availability of more dialysis treatment options
- Information gained and used by research studies
- Targeted patient education efforts
- Patient support groups
- ESRD community advocacy

*Over 26 million
Americans suffer from
Chronic Kidney Disease
(CKD) which can lead to
kidney failure*

Satellite Healthcare

Satellite Healthcare is built on a legacy spanning 35 years and is recognized for our leadership in (1) achieving clinical excellence (2) delivering innovative services and therapies and (3) fostering research and charitable giving. Our goal is to enable the chronic kidney disease community to achieve clinical excellence and improved quality of life.

Satellite Healthcare owns and operates over 40 in-center hemodialysis facilities (**Satellite Dialysis**) and home dialysis training centers (**WellBound**) providing a variety of treatment options to our patients. In 2008, Satellite Healthcare provided over 685,400 dialysis treatments and services to over 3,860 patients in California, Texas, New Jersey, Indiana, and Illinois.

¹ <http://www.usrds.org/adr.htm>

Satellite Laboratory Services (SLS) is a clinical laboratory specializing in ESRD testing. ESRD laboratory testing is an essential component of the treatment and services dialysis patients need on an ongoing basis. These lab results are reviewed by physicians, nurses, and dieticians in order to make patient care decisions. SLS provides testing to over 25,000 patients nationwide.

Satellite Philanthropy

As a not-for-profit dialysis provider, Satellite Healthcare is involved in a number of community benefit programs and activities that help us in fulfilling our mission towards our patients and the ESRD community.

A number of our programs and activities include:

- Satellite Financial Assistance Program
- Satellite Patient Trust Fund
- Satellite Research
- Norman S. Coplon Grant Program
- Hans Wolf Fellowship Program
- Optimal Start™
- Wellness Education and Dialysis Options Education
- Satellite Advocacy
- Satellite Nursing Scholarship Program
- Satellite Healthcare Children's Scholarship Fund
- Support of the National Kidney Foundation (NKF)
- Support of the American Kidney Fund (AKF)
- The Norman S. Coplon / Satellite Healthcare Professorship in Medicine

“Satellite Philanthropy” is a leader in philanthropic giving and charitable services focused on chronic kidney disease

Satellite Healthcare is proud that our community benefit program includes activities that stretch across many areas of the ESRD community including direct patient care, financial assistance for eligible patients, patient education, research, as well as state and federal level advocacy. Community benefit programs are an integral part of the Satellite culture.

Satellite Community Benefit Activities and Programs

Satellite Financial Assistance Program²

In 2008, Satellite Healthcare expanded the program to improve both the employee and patients' understanding and awareness of our Financial Assistance Program. This was done in an effort to help reach more patients who were in need of assistance. All patients of Satellite Dialysis or WellBound were provided an overview of the program which in 2008, provided \$1.3 million of financial assistance to our patients.

Satellite Patient Trust Fund

Satellite Healthcare is aware that emergency circumstances arise for our patients that may require assistance. Each Satellite Dialysis and WellBound facility has access to a Patient Trust Fund which is initially funded by Satellite Healthcare at the beginning of each year. The Satellite Patient Trust Fund has been utilized to assist patients on a case by case basis, as needed.

The following are examples of how this program was utilized in 2008:

- Purchasing of household essentials and nutritional supplements
- Providing funds for medical transportation
- Assistance with utility and phone bills

Donations are accepted for an individual Satellite Dialysis or WellBound Center's Patient Trust Fund. Individuals can make a tax deductible donation to the Patient Trust Fund. Additional funding comes from donations from the National Kidney Foundation (NKF), private companies, Satellite staff, medical directors and referring physicians.

Satellite Research

The mission of Satellite Research is to stimulate, support, and carry out research with emphasis on improving clinical outcomes in patients with kidney disease. Our research is guided by an independent Scientific Advisory Board of leading researchers and our Satellite Healthcare Board of Directors.

Satellite Research is conducting research in various areas directly applicable to the care of patients with ESRD. Three major areas have been chosen:

² The Satellite Financial Assistance Program was initially created to provide financial assistance to our low income patients.

1. Cardio Vascular Disease (CVD) is the major cause of death in patients with CKD. Therefore much emphasis is focused on improving cardiovascular mortality in this patient population.

Satellite Research is conducting a longitudinal study of cardiovascular biomarkers in patients undergoing hemodialysis (HD) and peritoneal dialysis (PD) to evaluate their potential in managing the risk factors in this high-risk population.

2. Home hemodialysis (HHD) is emerging as a new alternative to providing renal replacement therapy in this growing patient population.

Satellite is conducting studies with newly available home hemodialysis therapies and technologies, which allow patients to be independently treated at home.

3. CKD is addressed earlier through our WellBound centers, targeting early stage IV - CKD education in an effort to delay the onset of ESRD and improve the health literacy related to treatment modality selection.
 - Of the patients participating in the CKD options education, approximately 40% choose a home treatment modality, more than four times the national average.

As of 2008, the literature about the frequency of home hemodialysis is limited. Offering a range of frequency from every other day, to four and six times per week, as well as nightly, allows the study of clinical and laboratory parameters with special emphasis on adequacy, anemia and phosphate management, quality of life, medication patterns, and removal of middle molecules.

- Adequate dialysis has been a major focus over the last decade, as mainly defined by laboratory parameters. It is evident that other parameters such as patient's functioning level, CVD risk factor control and cognitive function are important to define optimal dialysis therapy as well.
- Observational studies on cognitive function in patients undergoing a variety of dialysis modalities and frequencies is currently ongoing in the WellBound and Satellite Dialysis Centers
- Furthermore the evaluation of hemodynamic factors analyzed with bio-impedance measurements will contribute to the understanding of how dialysis modalities affect the cardiovascular system and will help to provide more individualized treatment options.

Finally, a randomized, controlled clinical trial to compare two different catheter lock solutions in HD patients with permanent central venous catheters has just been finished and is in the process of being analyzed.

- Catheter infection is one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality in ESRD patients with infections being the second most common cause of death. Prevention of catheter infection is pivotal in improving outcomes in this patient population.

A randomized, controlled clinical trial to compare two different catheter lock solutions in HD patients with permanent central venous catheters has just been finished and shown significantly improved results with the study solution. This has resulted in direct applied research to patient care, as Satellite has implemented this new improved procedure to all patients dialyzing with catheters.

- Malnutrition is a known risk factor in patients with ESRD. Protein supplementation is assumed to counteract this disorder, but optimal treatment options are still missing.

A randomized controlled trial in patients with low albumin levels has just been started in patients starting early in 2008 undergoing peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis. Patients were given a protein supplement on dialysis or daily in order to correct malnutrition. Recruitment for the trial which aims at enrolling more than 300 patients was done throughout 2008 for a 3 month study.

Satellite Research is also participating in the Frequent Hemodialysis Network (FHN) study and NIH funded study to evaluate in a randomized controlled trial the effect of daily HD in-center, compared to a conventional thrice-weekly schedule.

All Research projects are aimed at improving outcomes and quality of life for patients on dialysis. Results of these research projects have been presented at a variety of national meetings including the American Society of Nephrology meeting (ASN), the Annual Dialysis Conference (ADC), and the Annual Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) and the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) meeting.

Finally, Satellite Healthcare is also participating in FDA governed clinical trials with new products promising to improve patients life undergoing dialysis. Satellite is participating in the phase 3 trial for a long acting erythropoiesis stimulating agent which requires only monthly administration and thereby promises to facilitate anemia management in ESRD patients.

Contract Research

An integral part of Satellite Research is also participation in phase II and III clinical trials with new promising products in the process of achieving FDA approval. Trials are chosen according to their applicability and likelihood to improve patient morbidity and mortality.

Norman S. Coplou Grant Program

Satellite Healthcare's extramural grant program is one of the nation's largest private research grant programs focused on chronic kidney disease. Grant awards are given to individuals and institutions engaged in promising kidney disease research in the United States and Canada. Approximately one-third of the awards are for basic science research, with the remaining two-thirds aimed at applied science. Each year, Satellite Healthcare funds approximately 24 grants totaling nearly \$1,000,000.

As of 2008, over \$7,700,000 has been granted, supporting over 40 different research projects in the United States and Canada. Grantees from 2008 include Stanford University, Baylor College of Medicine, and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Hans Wolf Fellowship Program

Satellite Healthcare provides funding for a selected Stanford Medical Nephrology Fellow whose focus is related to CKD or ESRD. The fellow is given the opportunity to better understand the issues related to this community.

Optimal Start® (OS)

There are many essential components which contribute to a positive dialysis experience and better outcomes for ESRD patients. These factors include improved health literacy about ESRD, making the necessary dietary changes, and compliance with dialysis treatments and services.

In 2008, Satellite Healthcare completed implementing the Optimal Start® (OS) program across all Satellite Dialysis Centers. The Satellite Optimal Start Program is a patient empowerment program targeted at the first 90 days of a patient's experience with dialysis treatment. The program continues to enable Satellite Healthcare to work closely with new patients to provide them the best opportunity for successful dialysis treatment.

The Optimal Start® staff ensures that patients understand the importance of the dialysis treatment. Patients also are educated on related health conditions prevalent in ESRD patients. The added one-on-one support for the first 90 days is one way Satellite is able to assist and educate new patients about healthy ways of living and treating their disease.

Optimal Start® Program is a patient empowerment program targeted at the first 90 days of a patient's experience with dialysis treatment

The OS programs goals is to achieve the best possible outcomes for new patients. During the first 90 days the program provides interventions:

- To assist, support, and educate patients who have chosen in-center hemodialysis as their modality to treat their kidney failure.
- To reduce hospitalization and missed dialysis treatments due to a patient's lack of understanding of the importance of being compliant with their new prescription drug therapy and dietary changes.

- To facilitate placement of a permanent access to insure better adequacy and exceed Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services “Fistula First³” program goals.
- To monitor patient Clinical Performance Measure (CPM) to see that they are within the target range and to insure a better state of health during the first 90 days.
- To foster a team approach by engaging everyone involved with the patient’s care in the OS process. Give them the opportunity to better understand how each person’s discipline impacts the success of the patient’s ability to adapt to stage V kidney failure.

Wellness Education and Dialysis Options Education

Through the WellBound Centers of Excellence, Satellite Healthcare provides comprehensive dialysis options education programs as a way to improve the clinical and quality of life outcomes of CKD patients. These programs are designed as an adjunct to the care provided by community nephrologists and are focused in two specific areas: CKD wellness education and renal replacement therapy education.

Studies have shown that pre-dialysis education affects the involvement of CKD patients in their healthcare. A patient that is well-versed in the details of CKD is more likely to establish behaviors that are consistent with maintaining their health and deferring disease progression. This can take the form of embracing exercise, altering diets, or monitoring and addressing important contributors to their disease. At the same time, increasing a patient’s health literacy at an earlier stage also helps them to delay their need for dialysis therapy.

WellBound’s wellness education programs cover a variety of key topics relevant to CKD patients, including hypertension management, exercise, nutrition, stress reduction, and cardiovascular risk assessment. Patients who take part in these classes have greater health literacy, are more engaged in their care, better prepared for choosing and starting a dialysis therapy and are more able to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

When it comes to selecting a treatment modality, WellBound provides CKD patients with the education so that they, in collaboration with their physician, can make an informed decision regarding their dialysis options. WellBound’s renal replacement therapy education programs expose patients to all treatment options including transplant, in-center hemodialysis and self-care therapies. By proactively preparing patients to make educated therapy decisions, Satellite Healthcare aims to reduce the persistently high rate of patients who begin dialysis in an emergency hospital setting.

Satellite Advocacy

³ Fistulas are considered to be the “gold standard” for establishing access to a patient’s circulatory system. Fistulas last longer, need less rework or repairs, and are associated with lower rates of infections, hospitalization, and death.

Satellite Healthcare actively participates in a number of state and federal coalitions to better understand and provide input on issues related to the CKD community. As a not-for-profit organization, it is essential that we inform and educate state and federal elected officials and government agencies about issues impacting our patients.

In 2008, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Provider Act of 2008 (MIPPA) passed Congress which includes a number of provisions impacting the ESRD community including payment for CKD education to physicians and a new ESRD bundled payment system. Satellite Healthcare began to assess the possible impact of MIPPA on our patients and facilities. We anticipate this to be an important activity over the next couple of years prior to the implementation of our new bundled payment system on January 1, 2011.

In 2008, Satellite Healthcare participated in a number of meetings with state and federal elected officials discussing a variety of topics including:

- The importance of creating a patient education initiative to increase awareness about CKD and to help patients learn self-management skills.
- The establishment of a quality initiative that would reward quality improvement based on measures developed in cooperation with the kidney care community.
- The support of research for understanding barriers to different treatment modalities for dialysis patients.
- The development of a better understanding of advantages of home dialysis or more frequent dialysis.
- The difficulty of staying competitive with salaries with other healthcare providers for similar clinical staff including nurses, dieticians, social workers, and management without an annual reimbursement update mechanism, similar to other Medicare providers.

Satellite Nursing Scholarship Program

We recognize the importance of nephrology nursing in the CKD community and have created a scholarship program for nursing students interested in pursuing careers at Satellite Healthcare. In 2008 Satellite Healthcare had provided a nursing scholarship to one student.

Our goal in providing these scholarships is to increase awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of the field of dialysis nursing and to improve the patient care by increasing the number of qualified dialysis nurses available. We believe by creating awareness and exposing the nursing community to CKD nursing opportunities, Satellite will be better able to achieve our goals of providing a higher level of service to our patients and to sustain our growth.

Satellite Healthcare Children's Scholarship Fund

At the end of 2008, Satellite Healthcare launched the Satellite Healthcare Children's Scholarship Fund to assist the children of our employees achieve their goals of higher education. In 2008, Satellite Healthcare awarded 4 scholarships from this newly created fund.

This program will reward and assist in the education of many of the deserving children of our talented employees. By supporting our future leaders during their educational development, we will contribute to a better future for all.

The Satellite Healthcare Children's Scholarship Fund will award \$5,000 for the Spring semester/term 2009 and \$5,000 for the Fall semester/term 2009. In recognition of our employees we offer this benefit of \$500 to ten deserving children for both the Spring and Fall semester/term.

These scholarships are awarded for full-time undergraduate study at any accredited two- or four – year college or university. Recipients are selected based on academic record, demonstrated leadership, participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, and goals and aspirations as stated in the 500 word essay component of the application.

Support of the National Kidney Foundation

Satellite Healthcare historically has been a leading supporter of the National Kidney Foundation (NKF). Throughout more than 35 plus years of service, Satellite has donated more than \$2 million to NKF national and state programs.

The NKF has been one of the key drivers in improving the quality of care for CKD patients in the United States. Our donations have been used for a number of NKF programs and activities, including promoting basic research through the NKF grant program, sponsoring major clinical practice guidelines, and playing a major role in the Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP).

Finally, Satellite Healthcare was the primary sponsor of the Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (K/DOQI), which provides evidence-based clinical practice guidelines developed by volunteer physicians and healthcare providers for all phases of kidney disease and related complications, from diagnosis to monitoring and management cardiovascular guidelines which are widely used in the dialysis community today.

American Kidney Fund

The American Kidney Fund (AKF) was founded in 1971, to help a single individual with kidney failure pay for dialysis. Today, AKF is the leading source of direct financial aid to chronic kidney disease patients across the nation. In 2008, AKF served more than 63,500 patients, distributing \$81.9 million in grants. Furthermore, ninety-six cents of every dollar spent by AKF goes to programs and services.

Satellite healthcare supports the AKF with regular annual donations to support AKF programs.

The Norman S. Coplon / Satellite Healthcare Professorship in Medicine

Satellite Healthcare, one of the nation's first and largest providers of dialysis services and kidney disease therapies, has honored its founder, Norman S. Coplon, MD, with an endowed chair at Stanford University School of Medicine.

The Norman S. Coplon/Satellite Healthcare Professorship in Medicine was established on June 12, 2008 with a gift from Satellite Healthcare, which Dr. Coplon founded in 1974 as a not-for-profit organization. His vision was to fulfill the growing need for dialysis services, as well as to fund research and provide education for patients with end stage renal disease (ESRD). The company aims to advance the standard of chronic kidney disease care while optimizing patient wellness and

Title	Researcher / Institution
"Arrest of Kidney Disease Progression by A2A Adenosine Receptor Activation"	Dr. Gabriela Garcia from Baylor College of Medicine
"Disparities in end-stage renal disease among Asians and Pacific Islanders"	Dr. Yoshi Hall from University of Washington
"Investigating Prevention and Mechanisms of Type 1 Diabetic Nephropathy"	Dr. Susanne Nicholas from David Geffen School of Medicine UCLA
"Gamma-Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone Signaling: Implications for Salt-Sensitive Hypertension and Chronic Kidney Disease"	Dr. Alan Pao from Stanford University
"Biofilms in Hemodialysis Catheters"	Dr. Venkataraman Ramanathan from Baylor College of Medicine
"Mechanoregulation of Fibrosis-associated Protein Expression in Renal Tubular Epithelia"	Dr. Rajeev Rohatgi from Mount Sinai School of Medicine
"Role of PGE ² in Podocyte Biology: Implications for Progression of Chronic Kidney Disease"	Dr. Tarak Srivastava from University of Missouri, Kansas City
"Sleep in Children and Adolescents with Chronic Kidney Disease"	Dr. Mark Unruh from University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

quality of life.

Table 1: 2008 Norman S. Coplon Grant Program Awardee