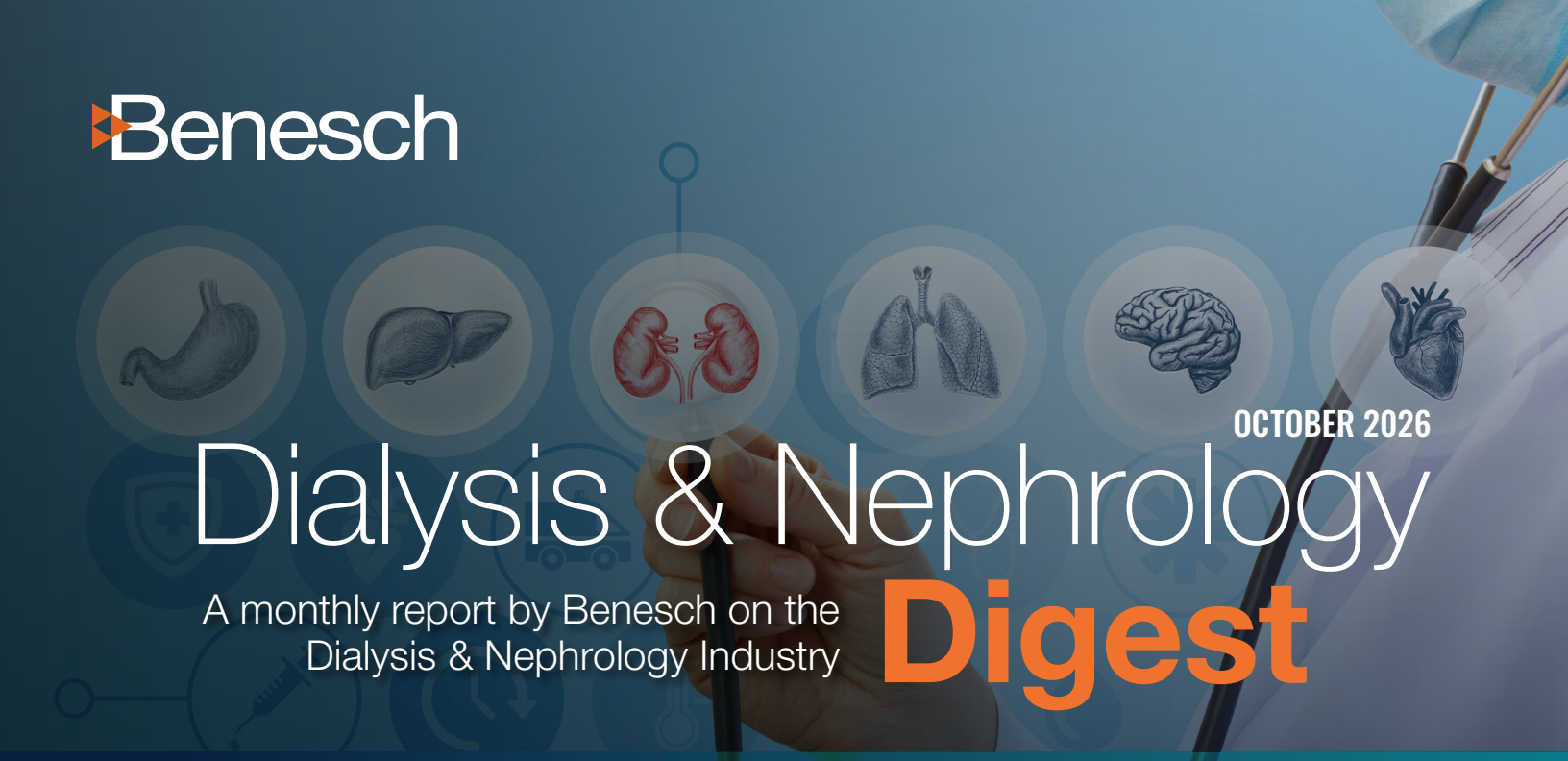
Benesch



OCTOBER 2026

Dialysis & Nephrology Digest

A monthly report by Benesch on the Dialysis & Nephrology Industry

In This Issue

PAGE 2

Calendar of Events

PAGE 4

Nephrology and Dialysis

CMS releases 2027 Medicare Fee Schedule final rule

HHS outlines national plan to reshape kidney care

Shervin Korangy appointed CEO of Fresenius Medical Care

Dialybrid raises $17M to advance next-generation hemodialysis vascular access graft

FDA approves Bayer's Kerendia for CKD in adults with type 1 diabetes

PAGE 5

KFF survey finds chronic care patients skipping treatment as costs and payer barriers rise

Kidney patients launch 50 state nonpartisan voter registration drive

Study finds depressive symptoms persist before and after kidney transplantation

Virtual kidney-care companies show no consistent benefit despite billions in investment, PHTI finds

Renalytix secures $14M to support Kkidney-diagnostics expansion

FDA cites Fresenius for quality failures involving leaking dialysis-solution bags

PAGE 6

eGenesis says pig kidney recipients later received human donor organs

DaVita agrees to pay $15M to settle claims from data breach

Kidney patients urged to use AI for education, not dialysis decisions

Fresenius issues correction for 1,140 dialysis machines following alarm complaints

U.S. Renal Care & Satellite Healthcare Honor 25 Nurses with National DAISY Award During Nephrology Nurses Week

PAGE 7

ASC

CMS expands ASC coverage and raises 2026 payment rates

HealthSpan Partners to acquire surgery partners in $5.7 billion deal

HCA reports 5.4% decline in ASC surgery volume

HHS-OIG updates health care fraud self-disclosure protocol

Federal indictment alleges $19 million health care fraud scheme

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Calendar of Events

JANUARY 18–21, 2027
ISET 2027
Miami Beach, FL
For more information, please click here.

FEBRUARY 26–28, 2027
ASDIN 23rd Annual Scientific Meeting
New Orleans, LA
For more information, please click here.

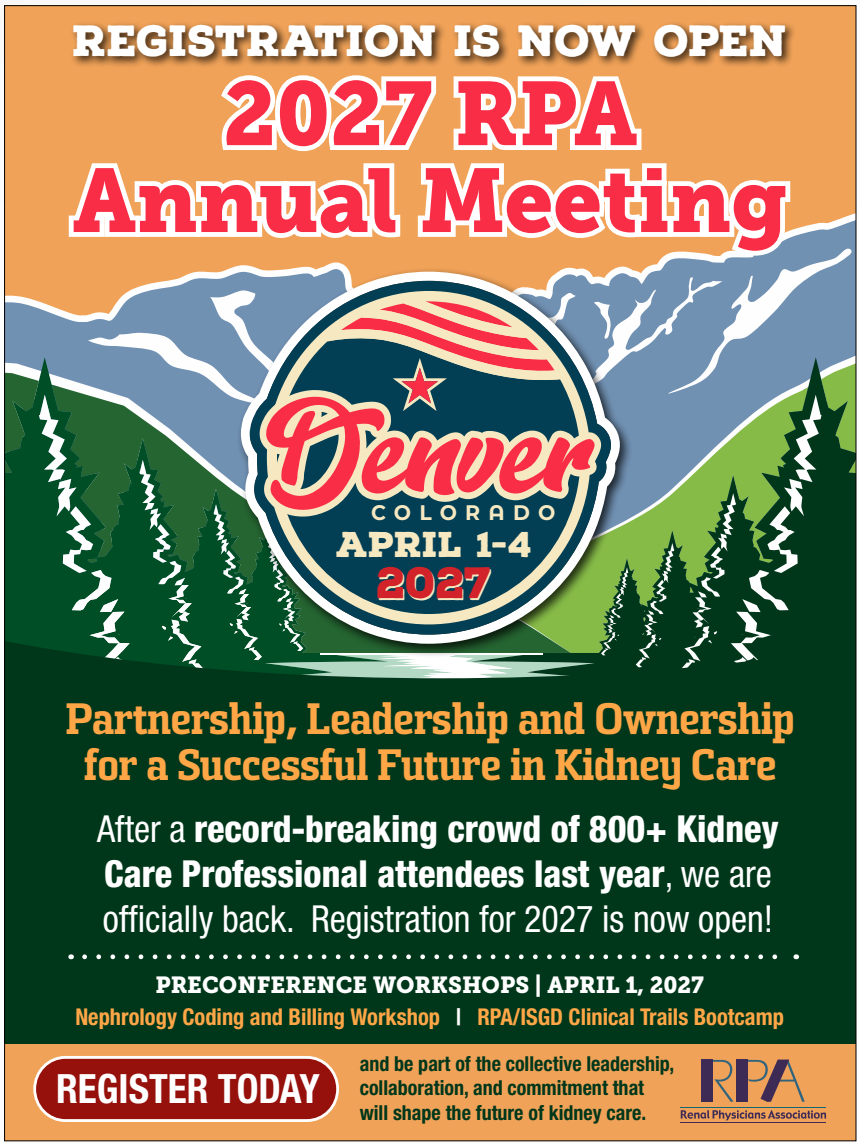
MARCH 11–13, 2027
OEIS 2027 Annual Meeting
Orlando, FL
For more information, please click here.

MARCH 20–24, 2027
SIR 2027 Annual Scientific Meeting
Los Angeles, CA
For more information, please click here.

JUNE 1–4, 2027
NCVH 2027 Annual Conference
New Orleans, LA
For more information, please click here.

SEPTEMBER 19–22, 2027
RHA 2027 Annual Conference
San Diego, CA
For more information, please click here.

OCTOBER. 27-31, 2027
ASN Kidney Week 2027
San Diego, CA
For more information, please click here.



Calendar of Events



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.

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Nephrology and Dialysis

NOVEMBER 5, 2026

CMS releases 2027 Medicare Fee Schedule final rule

The 2027 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule final rule reduces conversion factors and makes modest RVU cuts to several services commonly provided by nephrologists, including monthly capitated payment and E&M codes. More favorable changes include a two-year delay of restrictions on contractor-provided remote patient monitoring services and finalized updates to the G2211 complexity adjustment that could increase payments for certain E&M services. Changes to the practice expense methodology could also bring additional reimbursement reductions as they are phased in.

Source: Rob Blaser of the RPA

OCTOBER 20, 2026

HHS outlines national plan to reshape kidney care

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a national plan aimed at improving kidney disease prevention, expanding treatment options and strengthening competition and accountability across the kidney care system. The plan calls for earlier screening of at-risk patients, payment models that reward providers for slowing disease progression and fewer regulatory barriers to home dialysis and emerging technologies. It also recommends steps to expand living kidney donation, modernize the transplant network and increase oversight of organ procurement organizations. With an estimated 37 million U.S. adults living with chronic kidney disease, the plan seeks to shift federal policy toward detecting and treating kidney disease before it progresses to kidney failure.

Source: HHS

OCTOBER 7, 2026

Shervin Korangy appointed CEO of Fresenius Medical Care

Fresenius Medical Care appointed Shervin J. Korangy as chief executive officer and chair of the management board, effective Oct. 12, 2026. Korangy succeeds Helen Giza, who led the company through its FME25+ transformation program and an approximately EUR 1.2 billion reduction in its cost base. A member of Fresenius Medical Care's supervisory board since 2023 and former CEO of BVI Medical, Korangy will lead the company's next phase of strategic development, with a focus on innovation, expanded access to care and long-term profitable growth.

Source: Fresenius Medical Care press release

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

Dialybrid raises $17M to advance next-generation hemodialysis vascular access graft

Dialybrid has raised €15 million ($17 million) in Series A financing, led by XGEN Venture with participation from CDP Venture Capital, to advance clinical development of its Silkothane arteriovenous graft for hemodialysis vascular access and expand research into other vascular applications. The company also announced the first successful patient implantation of the device in an Italian first-in-human trial, marking a significant milestone as it moves toward commercialization.

Source: Medical Device Network

SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

FDA approves Bayer's Kerendia for CKD in adults with type 1 diabetes

FDA approved Bayer's Kerendia (finerenone) to reduce urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio in adults with chronic kidney disease associated with type 1 diabetes, marking the first new treatment for this population in more than 30 years. In the Phase III Fine-One trial, Kerendia reduced UACR by 22% at month three and 28% at month six versus placebo. Hyperkalemia was reported more often with Kerendia than placebo, 10.1% versus 3.3%, and 1.7% of patients discontinued treatment because of it.

Source: Pharmexec

Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

KFF survey finds chronic care patients skipping treatment as costs and payer barriers rise

A KFF survey of more than 25,000 adults found high healthcare costs and payer policies such as prior authorizations are limiting access to care for people with chronic conditions. Nearly a third of adults managing chronic illness reported trouble affording medical bills, and about half of adults with three or more chronic conditions said they skipped or delayed care in the past year. The findings point to affordability and coverage barriers that can undermine medication adherence and ongoing management for patients with complex diseases, a relevant risk factor for dialysis and other chronic care populations.

Source: Tech Target

SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

Kidney patients launch 50 state nonpartisan voter registration drive

The American Association of Kidney Patients launched its "50 States in 50 Days" KidneyVoter campaign to register and mobilize kidney patients, donors, caregivers, clinicians, and industry employees. The nonpartisan initiative has expanded to cardiovascular and metabolic communities while emphasizing treatment access, transplantation, screening, and living-donor protections.

Source: American Association of Kidney Patients

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Study finds depressive symptoms persist before and after kidney transplantation

A Kidney360 multicenter prospective cohort study found depressive symptoms may remain common across the kidney transplant process, with about one in seven kidney transplant recipients showing depressive symptoms at admission. The study included 4,661 kidney transplant candidates and 1,215 recipients between 2008 and 2025, and identified age, smoking status and frailty as factors linked to higher odds of elevated depressive symptoms. The findings highlight behavioral health considerations for kidney care and transplant populations within the broader nephrology care continuum.

Source: GA

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Virtual kidney-care companies show no consistent benefit despite billions in investment, PHTI finds

PHTI's evaluation of eight virtual CKD platforms found no consistent evidence that they slow kidney-function decline, increase recommended drug use, or materially reduce total healthcare spending. The report recommends that purchasers tie vendor payments to patient-level clinical outcomes rather than engagement and utilization measures.

Source: Medical Economics

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

Renalytix secures $14M to support kidney-diagnostics expansion

Renalytix raised approximately £10.5 million, or $14.2 million, through an institutional placing, subscription, and retail offering, with part of the financing subject to shareholder approval. The proceeds will support national distribution of the KidneyIntelX.dkd test, laboratory expansion, clinical-evidence programs, pipeline development, and working capital.

Source: Dealroom

SEPTEMBER 7, 2026

FDA cites Fresenius for quality failures involving leaking dialysis-solution bags

The FDA cited significant manufacturing and quality-control violations at Fresenius's Utah facility after complaints involving 156 leaking Delflex peritoneal-dialysis solution bags. Regulators warned that compromised sterility could cause life-threatening infections and called for independent audits and extensive remediation.

Source: Yahoo

Nephrology and Dialysis (cont'd)

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

eGenesis says pig kidney recipients later received human donor organs

eGenesis said two early recipients of its genetically engineered pig kidneys later successfully received human donor kidneys, addressing a key transplant concern that xenografts might trigger antibodies that complicate future human-to-human transplants. In both cases, the pig kidneys were removed and the patients returned to dialysis for months before human organs became available, but the xenografts allowed them to avoid dialysis for much of the year while awaiting transplant.

Source: Stat News

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

DaVita agrees to pay $15M to settle claims from data breach

DaVita agreed to a proposed $15 million settlement covering consolidated litigation arising from a ransomware breach that affected approximately 2.7 million people. The incident disrupted operations, exposed potentially sensitive patient and financial information, and reportedly cost DaVita $25 million in 2025.

Source: Healthcare Dive

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

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SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

Kidney patients urged to use AI for education, not dialysis decisions

The American Kidney Fund says AI tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini and Copilot can help people with kidney disease understand medical terms, compare lab values, prepare questions for appointments and find patient-friendly information from trusted kidney organizations. It emphasizes that AI should be used as a learning and planning tool only and should not replace advice from a healthcare team or be relied on for decisions such as whether a patient needs dialysis.

Source: American Kidney Fund

AUGUST 28, 2026

Fresenius issues correction for 1,140 dialysis machines following alarm complaints

Fresenius initiated a Class II correction covering 1,140 2008T BlueStar hemodialysis machines that can generate flow, water, or temperature alarms requiring affected units to be taken out of service. The machines may remain in use while parts are replaced, but clinics could face scheduling and capacity disruptions when patients must be transferred to backup equipment.

Source: Medical Daily

OCTOBER 5, 2026

U.S. Renal Care & Satellite Healthcare Honor 25 Nurses with National DAISY Award During Nephrology Nurses Week

U.S. Renal Care and Satellite Healthcare recognized 25 nurses with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses during Nephrology Nurses Week. Honorees were celebrated for their clinical expertise, compassionate care and commitment to patients, reflecting the critical role nephrology nurses play in building lasting relationships with those they serve.

Source: U.S. Renal Care

ASC

CMS expands ASC coverage and raises 2026 payment rates

CMS finalized a 2.6% payment-rate update for ambulatory surgery centers that meet applicable quality-reporting requirements in 2026. The agency also revised the ASC Covered Procedures List criteria and added 289 procedures, plus 271 codes removed from Medicare's inpatient-only list, expanding the range of services that may be performed in ASCs when clinically appropriate. The rule also continues separate payments for qualifying non-opioid pain treatments and removes several measures from the ASC Quality Reporting Program.

Source: CMS

OCTOBER 26, 2026

HealthSpan Partners to acquire surgery partners in $5.7 billion deal

HealthSpan Partners, an affiliate of Bon Secours Mercy Health, agreed to acquire Surgery Partners in a transaction valued at approximately $5.7 billion, including debt. Shareholders other than Bain Capital affiliates are slated to receive $23.50 per share, while Bain will retain a significant ownership position. Expected to close in the first quarter of 2027, the transaction would add more than 200 sites across 30 states and approximately 5,000 affiliated physicians to HealthSpan's platform, underscoring continued investment in outpatient surgical care.

Source: Reuters

OCTOBER 27, 2026

HCA reports 5.4% decline in ASC surgery volume

HCA Healthcare reported that surgery volume at its ambulatory surgery centers fell 5.4% year over year in the third quarter, compared with a 2.9% decline at hospital outpatient departments. Executives attributed much of the pressure to losses in Affordable Care Act exchange coverage and broader softness in elective procedures. Despite lower volume, HCA said net revenue and earnings from its ASC holdings increased and reaffirmed that ASCs remain an important component of its broader care network.

Source: Ambulatory Surgery Center News

OCTOBER 15, 2026

HHS-OIG updates health care fraud self-disclosure protocol

The HHS Office of Inspector General updated its Health Care Fraud Self-Disclosure Protocol, clarifying eligibility, submission requirements and the process for investigating and quantifying potential fraud involving federal health care programs. The revised protocol keeps OIG's general minimum settlement multiplier at 1.5 times single damages and changes the deadline for submitting completed investigation findings and damages calculations to 90 days from the initial submission. It also provides detailed guidance for false billing, excluded persons and potential Anti-Kickback Statute violations.

Source: HHS-OIG

OCTOBER 23, 2026

Federal indictment alleges $19 million health care fraud scheme

A federal grand jury charged a Texas physician and a former U.S. Postal Service employee and union official with participating in an alleged scheme to defraud the Federal Employees' Compensation Act program. Prosecutors allege that the defendants and their coconspirators submitted roughly $19 million in fraudulent claims from 2017 through 2023 for items and services that were ineligible, medically unnecessary or never provided, resulting in at least $17 million in payments. The charges are allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

Source: U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas

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