



**RMS Disease Management**  
An Affiliate of Baxter Healthcare Corporation

**CLIENT RELATIONS**  
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## **RMS Highlights** **October 2002**

*Welcome to RMS Highlights! This now quarterly newsletter is supplied by RMS Disease Management to inform you of recent developments within our organization.*



### **RMS Receives NCQA Full Accreditation**

We are pleased to announce that RMS Disease Management Inc. has earned Full Patient and Practitioner Accreditation under NCQA's Disease Management (DM) Accreditation program. RMS received its accreditation status—the highest level possible—after a review of its DM program targeting renal disease. Health plans that offer NCQA-Accredited RMS DM programs will now receive automatic credit on related managed care organization accreditation requirements. Perhaps more importantly, they also will have an unbiased, third party confirmation from NCQA that these programs are well-designed, effective and patient and practitioner-friendly. For a copy of the NCQA press release, please contact your account manager.



### **Immunizations**

Every year it is our goal to ensure that each qualifying patient in our program is offered and receives an Influenza vaccine. We also take this opportunity to review the Pneumococcal and Hepatitis B vaccination status for each patient. We believe that the ideal setting for the administration of the vaccine for the ESRD patient is at the dialysis unit. These patients visit their dialysis unit three times each week thus making the vaccine more accessible versus a separate visit to the primary care physician's office. The Health Service Coordinators will provide all patients with a letter explaining the importance of the vaccinations, CDC Vaccination Information Sheets (VISs) in the patient's primary language (when available) and a response form allowing the patient to reply with the date of administration. HSCs will also discuss this essential component of health maintenance with the patient during phone and in-person contacts. The RMS team will work with each health plan and necessary provider to help facilitate this very important initiative. The results of our efforts will be provided to each health plan at the end of the immunization season.



## Did you know?

- At least 58 million Americans have elevated blood pressures requiring treatment with drugs or constant monitoring; about 15 percent are not even aware that they have high blood pressure.
- High blood pressure is a leading cause of heart attacks, strokes and kidney disease.
- If high blood pressure is controlled by treatment, the risk of these complications is reduced greatly.
- Making changes to a healthier lifestyle - such as losing weight, exercising more and cutting down on salt - often helps to control blood pressure.