

CMS Awards Contract for Multiple Research Studies to URREA

Ann Arbor, MI - The University Renal Research and Education Association (URREA) has been awarded a new contract that will allow it to bid on research studies for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This five-year Multiple Research and Demonstration contract (MRAD) makes URREA one of 10 exclusive bidders on high-priority CMS research studies and demonstrations related to improving health care in the United States. These studies will touch on many areas of health care research: cost, access, quality, service delivery models, and financing. All will be undertaken with the ultimate goal of improving health care policy and patient lives.

In preparing for the studies that will arise from this umbrella contract, URREA assembled a team of experts that includes many colleagues from the University of Michigan, particularly in the Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center and the Schools of Medicine and Public Health. "This contract gives us the chance to bring important Federally-funded studies to Ann Arbor," said Dr. Friedrich Port, President of URREA and Project Director for URREA's MRAD team. "We are always excited to collaborate on projects of national importance."

Under a similar contract with CMS, URREA and University of Michigan researchers have already collaborated on a number of studies, including evaluations of how managed care and disease management approaches fare for patients with end-stage renal disease.

Investigating patient outcomes, costs, and payment structures in the context of health system changes stands at the center of this team's core research interest and expertise. The research group at URREA and the University of Michigan is pleased to have this opportunity to help improve patient care by building on its experience in health services research and Medicare delivery and payment systems.

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