New Vascular Access Clinical Dashboard Available in EQRS
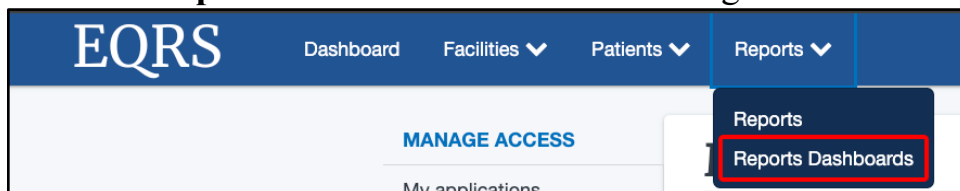
May 3, 2024

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have released a new Vascular Access Clinical Dashboard in the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Reporting System (EQRS). The new Vascular Access Clinical Dashboard supports quality improvement initiatives across the ESRD Networks. It provides dialysis facility users and dialysis organizations with up-to-date information and visualization on ESRD patient vascular access data in-use at an individual facility or, when applicable, throughout the dialysis organization. Using an easy-to-use, intuitive dashboard interface, users can view vascular access data on an individual or aggregate basis for any individual month.

Dashboards are available for Facility, ESRD Network, and CMS users. This EQRS News Flash will provide **facility** users with directions on accessing the new dashboard feature.
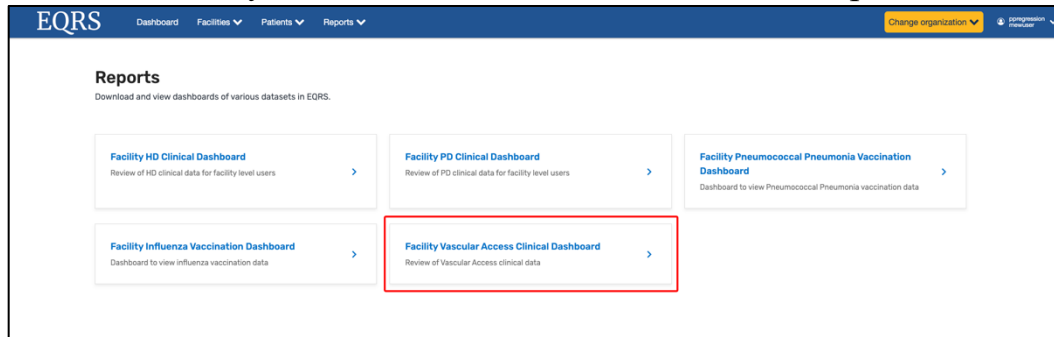
Accessing the Vascular Access Clinical Dashboard

Follow the instructions below to access the Vascular Access Clinical Dashboard:

1. Click the **Reports Dashboards** item in the navigation bar.

2. Click the Facility Vascular Access Clinical Dashboard option.

The Facility Vascular Access Clinical Dashboard will display.

Dashboard Overview

The top of the Facility Vascular Access Clinical Dashboard contains information on the **data sources used** for the tables and graphs displayed on the page. Additionally, the top of the dashboard contains information on **technical details** related to the dashboard, as well as **instructions** for using the dashboard.
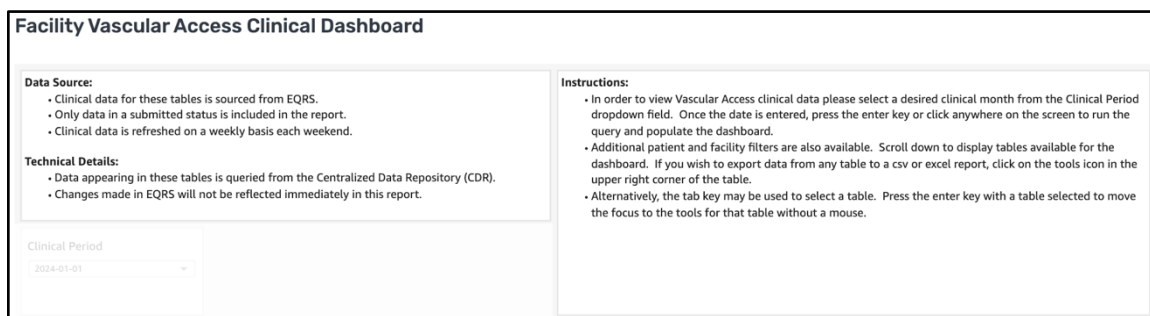

Figure 1 - Dashboard Overview

Clinical Period

The **Clinical Period** drop-down list allows users to update the dashboard with data for any individual month. The drop-down list contains all available months for display for the past five years (60 months).
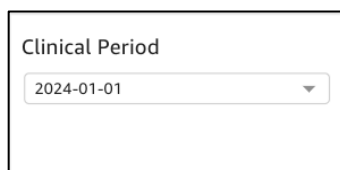

Figure 2 - Clinical Period Drop-Down

Note: Users can only select one month for display. The dashboard can only display data for one month at a time.

Users may also use the **search** function in the Clinical Period drop-down to search for a specific month. Click the drop-down menu and enter the search criteria in the **search value** box as seen in Figure 3.
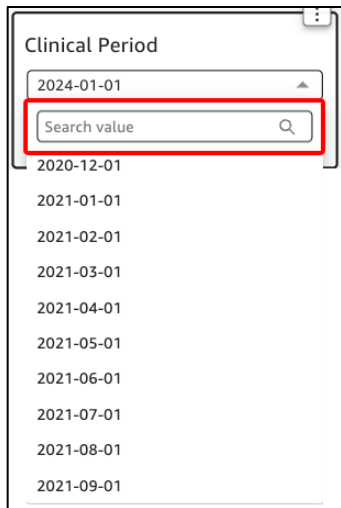

Figure 3 - Clinical Period Search Feature

Vascular Access Catheter Graphs

The "speedometer" graphs on the dashboard page contain information on patients with catheters present. The graphs provide a quick visual synopsis of patient catheter data for the selected clinical month, as illustrated in Figure 4 below.
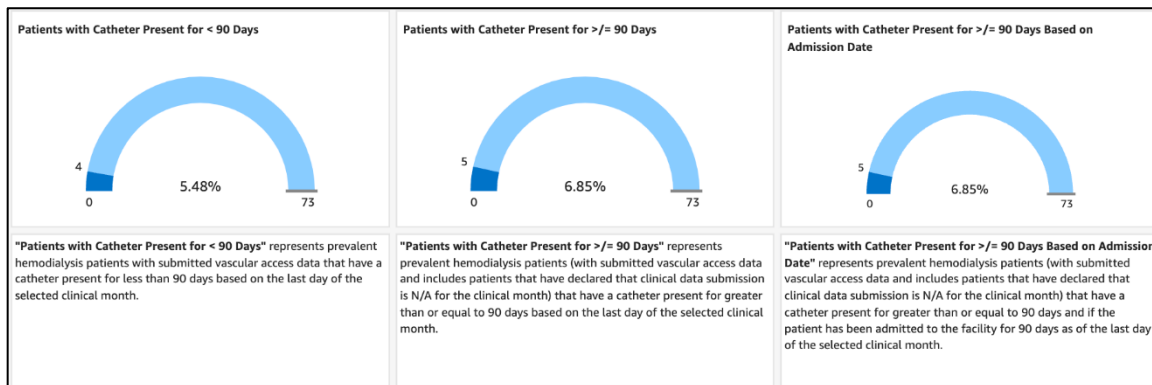

Figure 4 - "Speedometer" Graphs for Patient Catheter Data

Each of the graphs is accompanied by an explanation of the data represented by the graph. The explanation is located beneath each graph.

The graphs also feature "Tool Tips" that provide detailed information. Users can hover the mouse cursor over the graph to view this information, as shown in Figure 5 below.
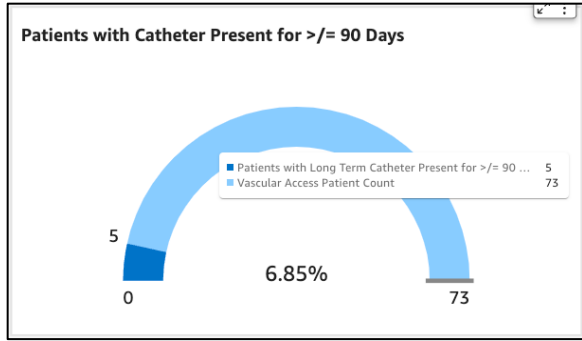
Figure 5 - "Speedometer" Graph with Tool Tip

Vascular Access Facility Aggregate

The **Vascular Access Facility Aggregate** section of the dashboard provides a summary of the facility's vascular access data displayed in a table. An example of a portion of this table is provided in Figure 6.

Vascular Access Facility Aggregate									
Clinical Period	Facility CCN	Affiliation	Facility Name	Facility ID	Vascular Access Patient Count	Patients with Long Term Catheter Present for < 90 Days: Count	Patients with Long Term Catheter Present for < 90 Days: Rate	Patients with Long Term Catheter Present for >/= 90 Days: Count	Patients with Long Term Catheter Present for >/= 90 Days: Rate
Jan-2024	012524	DIALYSIS CORP.	METROPOLIS DIALYSIS	800000033	73	4	5.48%	5	6.85%

Figure 6 - Vascular Access Facility Aggregate Table

The complete data displayed in this table includes:

Clinical Period

Facility CMS Certification Number (CCN)

Affiliation

Facility Name

Facility ID

Vascular Access Patient Count

Patients with Long Term Catheter (LTC) Present for <90 Days: Count and Rate

Patients with LTC Present for >/=90 Days: Count and Rate

Patients with LTC Based on Admission: Count and Rate

Catheter Only: Count and Rate

Arteriovenous (AV) Fistula Combined with a Catheter: Count and Rate

AV Graft Combined with a Catheter: Count and Rate

AV Fistula Only (with 2 Needles): Count and Rate

AV Fistula Single Needle Device: Count and Rate

AV Fistula Combined with an AV Graft: Count and Rate

AV Graft Only: Count and Rate

AV Graft Single Needle Device: Count and Rate

Port Access Only: Count and Rate

Other/Unknown: Count and Rate

NA "Master" Box Checked: Count and
Rate

Vascular Access Patient Details

The **Vascular Access Patient Details** section enables users to view all vascular access patient details associated with the graphs and data displayed on the dashboard. The dashboard displays this information in a table, and all associated patient data for the chosen clinical month displays in the table by default, as shown in the example in Figure 7.

Vascular Access Patient Details												
Clinical Period	UPI	Patient Last Name	Patient First Name	Date of Birth	Admission Date	Discharge Date	Discharge Reason	Primary Treatment Setting	Primary Treatment Type	Is NA "master" Box Checked?	Date of Reported Dialysis Session	Current Access Type
Jan-2024	800039191				03-15-2021			Dialysis Facility/Center	Hemodialysis		2024-01-31	AV Fistula Only (with 2 Needles)
Jan-2024	800403734				01-26-2009			Dialysis Facility/Center	Hemodialysis		2024-01-30	AV Fistula Only (with 2 Needles)
Jan-2024	800501100				12-01-2021			Dialysis Facility/Center	Hemodialysis		2024-01-27	AV Graft Only (with 2 Needles)
Jan-2024	800594990				01-09-2023			Dialysis Facility/Center	Hemodialysis		2024-01-31	AV Graft Only (with 2 Needles)
Jan-2024	2104519164				10-19-2023			Dialysis Facility/Center	Hemodialysis		2024-01-31	AV Fistula Only (with 2 Needles)

Figure 7 - Vascular Access Patient Details

The table contains the following data:

Clinical Period   Discharge Date and Reason

UPI   Primary Treatment Setting and Type

Patient Last and First Name   Is NA "Master" Box Checked?

Date of Birth   Date of Reported Dialysis Session

Admission Date   Current Access Type

The dashboard also contains an **EQRS Unique Patient Identifier (UPI) filter** feature (Figure 8) that allows users to filter by specific patient UPI data and refine the data displayed in the table.

Filter by: (for Patient Details Dashboard)	EQRS UPI Enter value

Figure 8 - EQRS UPI Search Feature

To filter, type a UPI value in the EQRS UPI search field and press **Enter**. The dashboard will filter and update the data displayed in the Vascular Access Patient Details table based on the values the user enters.

Vascular Access Type Graph

The **Vascular Access Type** graph displayed on the dashboard contains a "pie" graph that summarizes patient vascular access data types in use for patients admitted during the selected clinical month. Additionally, an explanation of the graph data is provided to the right of the graph on the page.
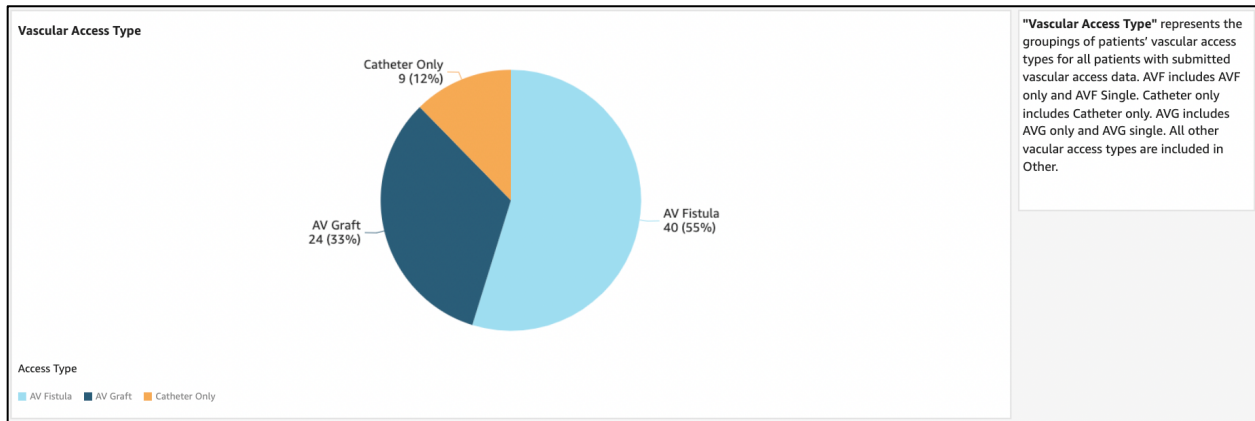

Figure 9 - Vascular Access Type "Pie" Graph and Explanation

The graph also features "Tool Tips" that provide detailed information. Users can hover the mouse cursor over the graph to view this information, as shown in Figure 10.
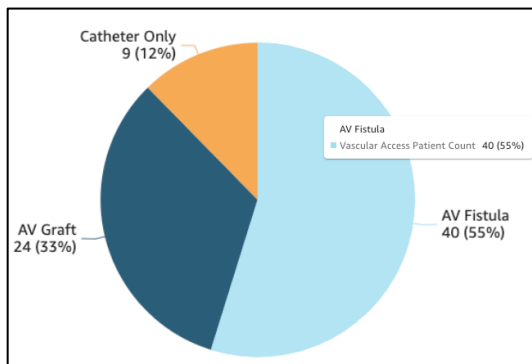

Figure 10 - Vascular Access "Pie" Graph with Tool Tip

Disclaimer

The bottom of the dashboard includes a **Disclaimer** section (Figure 11) that explains how the data on this dashboard is calculated and how it may be used.

Disclaimer:
- Long term catheter rates shown here are calculated using the current updated data submitted in EQRS and are not a substitute for the Quality Incentive Program's (QIP) point-in-time analysis which includes additional data points not analyzed by this report. The rate calculated for QIP will be different than the rates shown here and data from this report will not be accepted as evidence of meeting QIP benchmarks.
- Data for this report is calculated as of the end of the selected clinical month. If a patient's treatment changes during that month, even if vascular access data was submitted for the patient prior to the change, it will not show on this report if the patient is not on hemodialysis as of the last day of the selected clinical month.

Figure 11 - Dashboard Disclaimer

Users should read the Disclaimer section carefully. The information contained in this dashboard is not a substitute for the Quality Incentive Program (QIP) analysis that includes additional data points not included on this dashboard. As such, please note that **the information on this dashboard will not be accepted as evidence of meeting QIP benchmarks**.

For More Information

If you have additional questions on the Facility Vascular Access Clinical Dashboard, please contact eqrssupport@cms.hhs.gov.