To: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health

From: Gina Smus, RN, CDN, Manager of Clinical & Regulatory Services for American Renal Associates

Question: With the new proposals for Licensing of Out-of-Hospital Dialysis Units in Massachusetts will there be any change in the verbiage for an out-of-hospital dialysis facility to accept all acute patients after they have been stabilized at the hospital to the out-of-hospital dialysis facility?

145.010: Scope (Currently the regulations state)

(B) Procedures Not Permitted in an Out-of-Hospital Dialysis Unit. No unit shall provide acute dialysis or any other service which under 105 CMR 130.000 may be provided only at a hospital or shall any unit engage in any activity that is permitted only at long-term care facilities or duties under 105 CMR 150.00.

Please see the circular letter that was sent out on May 7, 2012.

*According to 105 CMR 145.010(b), a patient who requires acute dialysis may not receive initial dialysis treatments in an out-of-hospital dialysis unit; however, after a period of prior initiation of dialysis and evaluation as an in-patient in a hospital which has performed diagnostic studies and completed stabilization of the patient, and the most appropriate mode of treatment for the patient has been determined based on the clinical decisions of the attending nephrologist and the receiving physician, the patient may be accepted for on-going treatment at an out-of-hospital dialysis unit.”  Circular Letter: DHCQ 12-5-562 (May 7, 2012).*