



Yes, 2020 was a challenging year, which will undoubtedly change our world forever. At DPC, we lost our founding Board Member and long-time President Jack Reynolds, several of our dedicated Patient Ambassadors, and even more of our active members. On the other hand, kidney disease patients participated in record numbers to educate policy makers about the issues that matter most to them during our ongoing health care crisis. We highlight some of our shared accomplishments below, which would not have been possible without your dedication and perseverance.

Secured introduction of the Jack Reynold's Memorial Medigap Expansion Act



This bill would guarantee access to Medigap coverage for all dialysis patients regardless of age.

Advanced legislation for more care coordination



We developed the website www.KidneyCareMatters.org along with a coordinated media strategy using print, online and social media platforms. These efforts led to the introduction of the BETTER Kidney Care Act in Congress, which has nearly 100 bipartisan, bicameral cosponsors in the first three months.

Hosted our first-ever "Virtual" Fly-in



Despite not being able to meet with federal policy makers in-person, this was our largest Annual Advocacy Day. Advocates participated in almost 170 House and Senate meetings by phone. The sponsors of the BETTER Kidney Care Act also introduced the bill on the day of our meetings.

Created Medicare Advantage (MA) plan comparison online tool for dialysis patients



www.DialysisPlanChoice.org permits patients to view MA plan options that include their current dialysis clinic and nephrologist, and compare their likely out-of-pocket costs.

Challenged MA rule to help protect network adequacy



We believe our lawsuit served as a deterrent to plans from dropping dialysis providers, leading to an initial open enrollment period in which patients had multiple plan options that included their home clinic.

Protected private coverage in the courts



DPC's amicus brief was cited in the recent Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals decision upholding the Medicare Secondary Payer non-differentiation protection, which prevents insurers from treating the care for dialysis patients differently.

Expanded DPC state advocacy footprint



DPC hired an Eastern Region Advocacy Director and opened an office in Chicago to expand state policy efforts. She works closely with our Western Region Advocacy Director who was hired in 2019. DPC state staff sent more than 24,000 emails to state legislators, educating them on the needs of dialysis patients. They also participated in numerous phone/video meetings with policy makers to develop and strengthen our relationships.

Defeated Prop 23 at the ballot box and blocked harmful bills in state legislatures



DPC was part of a broad coalition that opposed an unnecessary and costly statewide ballot measure in California that threatened dialysis patients' access to care. DPC also worked with state legislators and community partners to successfully stop legislation from harming dialysis patients.

Secured unprecedented media coverage



News outlets across the country printed 25 DPC patient member Letters to the Editor and Op-eds in support of care coordination. Many more ran our press releases throughout the year.

Launched new DPC website



Our redesigned, mobile-responsive platform increased the use and accessibility of dialysis patient issues to policy makers and advocates around the country.

Increased social media footprint



Now with 43,000+ Facebook followers, DPC grew its on-line engagement and reach by over 390% this year. We also launched Instagram and LinkedIn accounts to reach new audiences.

Increased grassroots impact



DPC added a new Grassroots Manager position, who helped to: recruit over 100 new Patient Ambassadors; increase Patient Ambassador engagement by facilitating several facility tours and legislative meetings; increase media outreach through patient Letters to the Editor and op-eds; and launch DPC's "Patient Ambassador Spotlight" to highlight their efforts.

Secured record participation in education webinars



Our monthly webinars remain both timely and relevant. For example, in March the CDC led our webinar about the coronavirus pandemic with hundreds of patients joining live and thousands more who watched the recording. Our average webinar attendance for the year increased by over 250% and recorded views grew by over 530%.

Launched new educational resources for the underserved



In an effort to expand our reach, DPC added a new designated webpage for dozens of Spanish resources. We also created two extremely popular educational booklets about kidney disease for kids and teens.