

CMS Requirements for Disaster Preparedness

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has established disaster preparedness expectations for the ESRD community. Emergency planning requirements were created in the ESRD regulations of 1976¹. However, after Hurricane Katrina, new expectations for ESRD Networks and facilities are in place.

CMS asks ESRD facilities to:

- Establish a Disaster Coordinator and back-up coordinator at each facility.
- Notify Renal Network 11 of your facility open or closed status following a disaster event.
- Use disaster-specific patient tracking tools, such as a Disaster Patient Activity Report (for use in long-term, widespread disaster scenarios; goes into effect on the 5th day of an event; these would be distributed to you by Renal Network 11 at the time of disaster).
- Participate in calls with Renal Network 11 to facilitate communication between the ESRD community and emergency workers involved in response and recovery.

How is “disaster event” defined?

Every incident is unique in its scope and duration. Therefore, it is difficult to establish a strict definition. Generally, the aforementioned requirements apply to a facility when a disaster event forces you to:

- Move patients to an alternative site for more than one week (3 dialysis treatments); or
- Close your unit for more than one week; or
- Need physical or staffing resources that you cannot fulfill on your own for more than one week.

Why is it important to notify Renal Network 11?

While you may have a mutual aid agreement, routinely conduct training exercises, and are confident that you can effectively respond to an emergency or disaster, it is still important to make Renal Network 11 aware of your circumstances. Other parts of the state or region may also be affected. While you may sustain an event (e.g. self-sufficiently place patients at alternative locations), other areas may not be as fortunate and may need support.

Role of ESRD Networks

During emergencies, CMS now requires ESRD Networks to:

- Track and publish the open or closed status of dialysis facilities in affected areas.
- Assist in identifying dialysis facilities that can provide services.
- Assist family members and treating facilities in determining the dialysis location of displaced patients in order to exchange critical medical information.
- Coordinate with providers and emergency workers to ensure patient access to dialysis.

As outlined above, ESRD Networks are not considered first responders. Our role is to provide resources, referrals, and facilitate communications. Renal Network 11 recognizes your first priority is the safety of your patients and staff and we do not want to add to your burden during a time of great stress. We ask that you contact us after a disaster event (as defined above). If your unit is closed, we will ask you to notify us when your unit re-opens. If you require assistance with communications, patient placement, or access to resources, please call us.

Resources

To provide facilities and patients with the latest disaster planning resources, Renal Network 11 has established a special Web page, located at: www.esrdnet11.org/resources/disaster_prep.asp.

Actions to take:

- Please complete the Disaster Coordinator Form (see following page) and return it to the Renal Network 11 office via fax at: 651-644-9853.
- Review your disaster preparedness plans to make sure they are up-to-date.
- Establish a mutual aid agreement with a back-up dialysis facility and hospital.
- Conduct training exercises so staff and patients are prepared to respond to a disaster event.
- Ensure patients are prepared for disaster by discussing readiness plans, providing planning resources, and including patients in your training exercises.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure that ESRD patients and staff are prepared for disaster.

¹ See Sections 405.2140 (d) Emergency Procedures; 405.2160 Affiliation Agreement; and Section 405.2139 (b) Protection of Medical Record Information.

CMS Disaster Coordinator and Back-up Designation Form



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires all ESRD facilities to designate a Disaster Coordinator and back-up. Please complete the form below and fax it back to Renal Network 11 at: 651-644-9853.

Provider Number _____ Month/Year _____

Facility Name _____

First & Last Name of Person Completing Form _____

Name of Primary Disaster Coordinator _____

Title _____

Email _____

Facility Phone Number _____

Alternate Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Number _____

Name of Back-up Disaster Coordinator _____

Title _____

Email _____

Facility Phone Number _____

Alternate Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Number _____

**** Please complete and return via fax to: 651-644-9853 ****