

Date: September 25, 2009

To: Network 11 Dialysis Facilities

From: Chris Singer, MAN, RN, CNN
On behalf of the Network 11 Disaster Committee

RE: Emergency Preparedness and Response

Background

An emergency or disaster is an event that can result in significant harm to lives and/or property, as well as disruption in daily activities. Local, state, and national management officials create response mechanisms and guidelines to manage such events. In the kidney community, often state and local officials are not aware of the needs of dialysis patients receiving life sustaining treatment or the dialysis centers in which the patients receive treatment. Network 11 is committed to assisting dialysis facilities and local and state agencies to develop an effective plan to prepare staff, patients, and emergency management agencies in Network 11's region to be prepared for emergencies, and to have a method in place for acquiring the necessary resources to respond in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Emergency Preparedness Resources

In the summer of 2008, Part 494 Conditions for Coverage for End-Stage Renal Disease Facilities was released. Under the Physical Environment Condition, dialysis facilities were asked to develop an emergency plan for their facility (V408-416). To assist dialysis facilities with meeting this Condition, several resources have been developed and are included with this letter:

- Dialysis Facility Disaster Plan Checklist: A detailed checklist which helps a facility to develop an effective emergency and disaster preparedness plan, including: ensuring facility is emergency-ready, developing an evacuation plan, developing a plan of response during an emergency or disaster, and how to respond when an emergency occurs.
- County Emergency Management Form: A form that can be used to communicate needs about your dialysis facility and patients to your local disaster management agency.
- Letter to Power Company Template: A template that can be used to communicate needs about your dialysis facility and patients to your local power company.
- Letter to Water Utility Agency Template: A form that can be used to communicate needs about your dialysis facility and patients to your local water utility agency.
- Local Emergency Response Program Contact listing by state: A listing of name, email address, and phone number of county and/or city contact agencies that dialysis facilities should have at least annual contact with.
- Emergency Preparedness Environmental Scan Final Report: In the Fall of 2008, all Network 11 facilities were asked to participate in an environmental scan which sought to identify best practices in the area of emergency preparedness but also aimed to identify the needs of dialysis facilities in becoming prepared for emergencies. Data was collected and analyzed and is summarized in the attached report.

Electronic versions of these resources, as well as additional tools and resources are available at http://www.esrdnet11.org/resources/disaster_prep.asp. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chris Singer at the Network office at 651-644-9877 or csinger@nw11.esrd.net.