

January is Prepare for Potential Emergencies Month!

PATIENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JANUARY 2007

January is a time to think about potential emergencies. Living in the Midwest, we can expect a variety of weather conditions. It is quite possible we will get heavy snow in the winter. Do you have an emergency plan for your facility? Do your patients know what to do if they cannot come to dialysis because of weather conditions? It is important to share emergency preparedness techniques with patients and staff.

The Kidney Patient News web site list downloadable booklets with information on emergency preparedness and also provides links to other helpful websites.

<http://www.kidneypatientnews.org/katrina.html>

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) developed a booklet on how to prepare for natural disasters and emergencies.

<http://www.kidney.org/atoz/pdf/DisasterBrochure.pdf>

The American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) web site contains an article that discusses what a patient should do when they need dialysis during an emergency.

<http://www.aakp.org/aakp-library/dialysis-during-an-emergency/>

Caroline S. Counts' article discusses information on various disasters and how to prepare for different types of emergency situations. <http://www.nephrologynursing.net/announce/counts28491499.pdf>

For an on-line listing of the "open" and "closed" status of facilities in an impacted area, the services they provide, and a map to assist in locating the nearest facility, visit www.dialysisunits.com.

The Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) Coalition provides assistance and services in the event of a disaster.

1-888-33KIDNEY (1-888-335-4363)

<http://www.kidney.org/help/pdf/coalitionFinalReport.pdf>

Individuals or social workers (on behalf of an individual) can find information on available supplies, equipment, food, funding, etc. Call 1-800-638-8299.

http://www.kidneyfund.org/fpa_patient_aid.html

The National Mental Health Information Center provides information about disaster mental health. This web site explains the normal reactions to disasters and approaches to stress prevention and management.

<http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/disasterrelief/publications/allpubs/SMA-4113/default.asp>

This article written by Martha McClellan explains the emotional trauma ESRD patients may experience after a natural disaster and how Social Workers can help them cope.

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0ICF/is_5_28/ai_n18612633/print



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