

Preparing for Potential Emergencies

The Midwest is known for unpredictable weather causing the occasional significant snow emergencies, tornados, and flooding in different parts of the states. These situations can leave people without electric power, water, food and access to medical care, as well as, cause damage to their homes. Other forms of emergencies include all types of the flu and other contagious disease outbreaks. It is important to make sure your facility is prepared for different types of emergencies. The Conditions for Coverage, 494.60 (d) explains the steps the facility must take to prepare staff and patients for emergencies. The following links provide additional information to assist you in your work with patients during emergency situations.

The Kidney Patient News

The Network's patient Web site has information about ways to prevent the flu as well as links to downloadable booklets with information on emergency preparedness for dialysis and additional links to other useful Web sites.
<http://www.kidneypatientnews.org/>

The Renal Network

The Network's professional Web site contains information relevant to the Conditions for Coverage guidelines for emergencies such as infection control and reuse. Also featured is information regarding National Emergency Preparedness Month (September). Additional links to resources such as patient manuals are also available.
<http://www.therenalnetwork.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This site includes links to numerous articles on emergency preparedness and response as well as information for individuals on being prepared for emergencies.
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/preparedness/>

"Emotional trauma associated with renal disease and natural disasters"

The article discusses many issues that affect renal patients including the need for transportation, hygienic living conditions, medications, diet and locating an alternative dialysis clinic during a local or national emergency.
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_mOICF/is_5_28/ai_n18612633/print

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF)

"Planning for Emergencies – A guide for people with chronic kidney disease" informs patients how to prepare for natural disasters and emergencies.
<http://www.kidney.org/atoz/pdf/DisasterBrochure.pdf>

American Kidney Fund

This organization provides financial assistance to patients in time of need.
<http://www.kidneyfund.org/patient-grants/>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

"A Guide to Managing Stress in Crisis Response Professions" provides information about the normal reactions to disasters and approaches to stress prevention and management.
<http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/disasterrelief/publications/allpubs/SMA-4113/default.asp>

