



# KCER Watch

Safety and Health Topics: Emergency Preparedness Bulletin

April 2017

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## Hot Topics

### Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Training Session: CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule



Many healthcare providers are asking the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for help understanding the new emergency preparedness requirements. In response to these requests, CMS is holding an additional learning session to expand on information provided in the original session held October 5, 2016. During this new session, CMS will provide an overview of the Emergency Preparedness Final Rule and more detailed information about meeting preparedness training and testing requirements.

The new regulations went into effect on November 15, 2016 and must be fully implemented by November 15, 2017. The MLN training session is scheduled for **Thursday, April 27, 2017** from 2:30–3:30 pm ET. Visit <https://blh.ier.intercall.com/> to register.

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## Flu Cases on the Decline

Winter maybe over but the same cannot be said for the 2016-2017 flu season. The good news, a recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report says outpatient visits for the flu were down again in the United States during the week ending April 1. The report also says the number of states at the highest level of flu activity dropped from seven to four.

Read more: <https://goo.gl/dKRfm9>

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## 2017 Hurricane Season Forecast to be Slightly Less Active

Some welcome news for those living in the path of hurricanes—scientists say there will be fewer hurricanes this year! The reason for this is that there will be a moderately increased El Nino effect coupled with cooler temperatures in the North Atlantic Ocean. El Nino creates strong winds, which can break up hurricanes as they're forming. As a result, fewer hurricanes are forecast in the Atlantic.



Read more: <https://goo.gl/hlqTUz>

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## Education/Communication

### KCER Expands WHAT IF... Emergency Planning Campaign



The new KCER WHAT IF... National Emergency Preparedness Campaign materials are now available online! This campaign was the brainchild of the Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition (MARC) Patient Advisory Committee (PAC). The campaign offers a fun way to improve emergency preparedness and patient engagement in the dialysis facility. It is also a unique way to meet the requirements of the new CMS rule to increase patient safety during emergencies and establish a more coordinated response to natural and man-made disasters.

Flyers, posters, brochures, and more can be found on the KCER website: [www.KCERCoalition.com/WhatIf](http://www.KCERCoalition.com/WhatIf).

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## Trauma: You Are the Help Until Help Arrives

Trauma is the leading cause of death for people under the age of 46. When life-threatening injuries require immediate action to prevent someone from dying, the response has to be fast. Emergency responders are usually quick to respond, but they may not always be nearby. *You Are the Help Until Help Arrives* is a new

program that empowers the public to take action and provide lifesaving care before professional help arrives. Please help share the resources of this program with your community by going to the [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) website.

Learn More: <https://goo.gl/bfEgDm>

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## Disaster Planning Help for Cancer Patients

If you or someone you care about has cancer, the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Bureaus of Preparedness and Response and Tobacco Free Florida – Cancer Prevention and Control Program has information that will help ensure you are prepared in case of a disaster. Personal planning for a disaster is crucial for cancer patients, especially if there is a risk of being displaced. Cancer patients who are on active treatment or have a weakened immune system can improve their personal preparedness and increase their personal safety by developing an inclusive plan that is specific to their needs. The FDOH hopes that its new preparedness document for people with cancer will assist in this specialized planning and help save lives.

Learn More: <https://goo.gl/TVfAHO>

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## Red Cross Blood Donor Apps Make It Easier to Donate Blood



The American Red Cross' Blood Donor App reached a milestone this month. More than one million people downloaded its free Blood Donor App. The app makes it easier, faster and more convenient for users to schedule and manage their donation appointments, and recruit friends and family to roll up a sleeve with them. It's a new way to help meet the constant need for blood. The Red Cross says the app has resulted in approximately 988,000 blood and platelet donation appointments.

Learn More: <https://goo.gl/845ZTz>

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You can find this month's KCER Watch and past editions on our website:

[www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch](http://www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch)

### What do you think about KCER Watch?

We want your feedback! Please click here to complete a short survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/KCERWatchApril2017](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KCERWatchApril2017)



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This material was prepared by the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) contractor, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy nor imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. CMS Contract #: HHSM-500-2006-00007C Pub. No.: FL-KCER-7K2T3A-04202017-01