



KCER: KIDNEY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COALITION

Contacting Local Emergency Management

On April 15, 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updated the Conditions of Coverage. These regulations are the minimum health and safety rules that all Medicare and Medicaid participating dialysis facilities must meet. Some of these regulations outline the emergency procedures that facilities must implement, including having a facility disaster plan, providing staff training, and patient education. One condition requires that the dialysis facility make annual contact with the local emergency management agency.

According to the Interpretive Guidelines:

The facility must contact and develop a communicative relationship with the local disaster management agency. This relationship will help expedite restoration of interrupted services due to an emergency or disaster. There should be some documented evidence of this contact.

In order to ensure life saving dialysis services will be available in the event of an emergency or disaster, facilities should collaborate with their ESRD Network, suppliers, utility service providers, and their State agencies for survey and for emergency preparedness as well as with other dialysis facilities. Resources available from the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) Coalition can assist facilities in meeting this requirement.

Each county/parish emergency management procedures are different. Some emergency management agencies are organized under the police or fire department. Other jurisdictions have a free-standing agency. Remember that local emergency management agencies are not legislatively required to provide financial support to dialysis facilities, and may be financially unable to provide resources.

This regulation is not intended to take place of the regulation requiring dialysis facility disaster plans, staff education, and patient education. This regulation is intended to encourage dialysis facilities to collaborate on a local level with the agency that would provide/coordinate response activities after a disaster, not only as practice in communicating, but to build a working relationship to ensure mutual understanding of local resources, roles, responsibilities, and limitations.

Dialysis providers should provide education and data about their facility (location, number of patients, emergency contact information). The facility can use the following form to document the annual contact.

CONTACT WITH LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Date _____

Facility Name: _____

CMS Provider Number _____

Name of person filling out this form _____

List of resources and information we sent to the local emergency management office:

Date the information was sent: _____

Information was sent to: Name/Title: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Fax: _____ / _____

Email: _____

Other contact with the emergency management agency or emergency operations center (EOC): (examples: phone calls/ email including dates and who was involved):

Follow-up indicating information was received (i.e., return fax verification, email communication response, etc):

Facility's plan for annual communication includes:

Attach copies of letters, faxes, emails, or other documentation.