

What If...No Facility?

Dialysis facilities have been destroyed by fire, tornado, hurricane, flood, and earthquake. Some have been so badly damaged they were unable to open for weeks or months. Facilities have also been shut down due to chemical spills leaching into water systems. If disaster strikes in your area, there are things you should do to ensure you have the best access to dialysis:



- ***If earlier treatment is offered, DO IT!*** Many emergency events are weather related and known ahead of time. Clinics often plan for these by offering extra treatment before the storm. Make every effort to get that extra treatment!
- ***Make sure your contact information is up to date.*** Include several different ways your clinic could get ahold of you (telephone, cell phone, email, and emergency numbers). Also be sure your street address is correct. If the clinic needs to send someone for you, you will want them looking for you in the right place!
- ***Contact your clinic emergency numbers to find out the plan for dialysis treatment.*** It is not uncommon for dialysis clinics to hire buses to transport staff and patients together to clinics out of town while repairs are made.
- ***Listen to the radio for updates.*** You want to stay up to date on management plans for the emergency event before and after. Many dialysis facilities use radio and television as another way to communicate with patients. If you need to evacuate, you want to hear where shelters are located and safe routes.
- ***Keep medical identification on you at all times.*** Medical jewelry and wallet cards are ways to be sure emergency people can identify you as a dialysis patient. If you are evacuated to a shelter, inform people in charge that you are a dialysis patient.

If You Are Evacuated

- Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood. Create a Family Emergency Plan to decide these locations before a disaster.
- If you have a car, keep a full tank of gas in it if an evacuation seems likely. Keep a half tank of gas in it at all times in case of an unexpected need to evacuate. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages. Plan to take one car per family to reduce congestion and delay.
- If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if you have to. Make arrangements with family, friends or your local government.
- Take your emergency supply kit unless you have reason to believe it has been contaminated. Take all medications you will need, your dialysis orders and contact information for your dialysis facility.
- Take your pets with you, but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters.



For more information about how to prepare for an emergency, visit:

Red Cross: www.redcross.org

Ready.Gov: www.ready.gov

Family Survival Planning: www.family-survival-planning.com

For more information or to file a grievance, please contact

Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition
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Email: MARC@nw5.esrd.net
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