



## **Atlantic Tropical Storm & Hurricane Names for 2008:**

For every year, there is a pre-approved list of names for tropical storms and hurricanes. These lists have been generated by the National Hurricane Center since 1953.

At first, the lists consisted of only female names; however, since 1979, the lists alternate between male and female.

There are six lists that continue to rotate. The lists only change when there is a hurricane that is so devastating, the name is retired and another name replaces it.

- ◆ Arthur
- ◆ Bertha
- ◆ Cristobal
- ◆ Dolly
- ◆ Edouard
- ◆ Fay
- ◆ Gustav
- ◆ Hanna
- ◆ Ike
- ◆ Josephine
- ◆ Kyle
- ◆ Laura
- ◆ Marco
- ◆ Nana
- ◆ Omar
- ◆ Paloma
- ◆ Rene
- ◆ Sally
- ◆ Teddy
- ◆ Vicky
- ◆ Wilfred

## **The Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition**

### **Community Partner Meetings: Collaborating with Community Stakeholders**

End stage renal disease, or ESRD, affects over 20,000 individuals living in the state of Florida. ESRD is a condition that occurs when the kidneys can no longer function well enough to sustain life. ESRD is fatal unless treated with dialysis or a kidney transplant, both of which can have serious risks and consequences. The majority of Florida's patients (92%) choose in-center hemodialysis for their treatments, which requires them to visit a dialysis center three times a week. Without dialysis, the patient may require hospitalization or die from fluid overload and other complications.

Disasters, both natural and man-made, can cause major disruptions of life-sustaining dialysis services – endangering the health and well-being of individuals with ESRD. For example, dialysis requires uninterrupted electricity and takes approximately 100 gallons of potable water per treatment to dialyze each patient. In November 2005, the Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition (FKDC) emerged to establish



*A dialysis patient consults with his doctor during hemodialysis treatment. Hemodialysis patients receive treatment three times a week for approximately four hours per treatment.*

and facilitate partnerships that provide a framework for disaster readiness and continuity of care for the renal (kidney) community. Since that time, the Coalition has worked diligently to achieve this goal by providing education and outreach to all Florida dialysis patients, providers, and community stakeholders. *(continued on page 2)*

### **New Medicare Conditions for Coverage Published**

The Conditions for Coverage are the minimum health and safety standards that ESRD providers must meet in order to be certified under the Medicare program. In 2008, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) updated the Conditions for the first time in over 30 years. The final rule was published on April 15, 2008 and providers were given 180 days to comply with the new rules.

The updated Conditions include specific language related to disaster preparedness and response. Activities now required for ESRD providers include:

- Providing training and orientation in emergency preparedness to staff and patients, including information on what to do, where to go, and whom to contact.
- Evaluating, at least annually, the effectiveness *(continued on page 2)*

## Community Partner Meetings *(continued from page 1)*

One of the most successful methods of outreach utilized by FKDC is the Community Partner Meeting. Community Partner Meetings are collaborative discussions that seek to bring together key community stakeholders, both renal and non-renal, in an effort to educate all participants on the importance of dialysis and the needs of the dialysis community in disaster planning and response. In addition, the meetings provide an opportunity to help emergency management leaders and other responders understand and incorporate the special requirements of the kidney community into their jurisdiction's emergency and disaster plans. The knowledge and information shared at these meetings serves to enhance emergency planning and support for this vulnerable patient population.

The first Community Partner Meetings were held in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties in 2006 and 2007, respectively. More recently, FKDC co-hosted Community Partner Meetings in Miami-Dade and Leon Counties. The Miami-Dade meeting was held in April 2008. There were 36 in attendance including dialysis providers, representatives from four major hospitals, and county emergency management officials. During the meeting a list of facilities with back-up generators was distributed to all participants and shared with local and state emergency management.

The Tallahassee meeting was held in May 2008 in collaboration with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. There were 28 in attendance including representatives from county hospitals; local, state, and federal emergency management; law enforcement; utilities; and transportation. The meeting included a brief presentation explaining the basics of ESRD, as well as an overview of issues related to ESRD and emergency preparedness. This was followed by a comprehensive discussion regarding disaster preparedness and response and the respective responsibilities and capabilities of all parties involved.

As a result of the Community Partner Meetings, an important dialogue has been opened between ESRD providers and community stakeholders, both renal and non-renal. The meetings provide an opportunity to identify issues that require additional planning and coordination; as well as a platform for establishing lines of communication that result in much improved coordination and cooperation. FKDC plans to continue utilizing Community Partner Meetings to promote partnership and collaboration in order to create a community better prepared for disaster.

## Medicare Conditions for Coverage *(continued from page 2)*

of emergency and disaster plans and updating those plans as necessary.

- Having a plan to obtain emergency medical system assistance when needed.
- Contacting the local disaster management agency at least annually to ensure that such agency is aware of dialysis facility needs in the event of an emergency.

Since its inception, FKDC has promoted many of these rules as best practices for ESRD providers to follow. In fact, FKDC has already developed and disseminated tools and resources to the Florida renal community that can assist them in gaining compliance with the new emergency preparedness

conditions. Some of these tools include the *Best Practices Toolkit*, *Disaster Drill Instructional Guide*, and the *Emergency Communications Kit*. These tools are also available for download on the FKDC website ([www.fkdc.org](http://www.fkdc.org)).

According to CMS, the updates modernize Medicare's ESRD health and safety conditions for coverage and update CMS standards for safe, high quality-care to dialysis patients. FKDC continues to provide information, education, and resources that can assist Florida ESRD providers in complying with the new Conditions, thereby enhancing the quality and safety of patient care.

## FKDC has launched its new website!

Please visit [www.fkdc.org](http://www.fkdc.org) for access to FKDC tools and resources; helpful links to government, patient, and professional websites; and state and federal emergency management resources.

## FKDC Encourages Floridians to Get Ready During National Preparedness Month

Over the past decade, the State of Florida has seen dozens of natural disasters – ranging from extreme temperatures and wildfires to hurricanes, tornadoes, and flooding. Emergency events can happen without warning, changing lives in an instant. Taking action now can help minimize the impact they will have. To help the Florida renal community take action now and become better prepared for such disasters, the Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition is proud to be participating in the 5th Annual National Preparedness Month (NPM).

National Preparedness Month, which is held in September, is a nationwide effort sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) *Ready* Campaign. The campaign is designed to increase awareness, as well as

encourage individuals, families, businesses, and communities to take action and prepare for emergencies of all kinds. In 2007, more than 1,800 organizations joined the Ready Campaign as NPM Coalition Members, making it the most successful year to date.

This year, the NPM campaign is focusing on encouraging all Americans to take simple steps to prepare, including: Get a Kit; Make a Plan; Be Informed; and Get Involved.

**Get a Kit** – All citizens should have some basic emergency supplies on hand in order to survive for *at least* three days. Some of these items include food, water, flashlights, and a first aid kit. A complete list of items is *(continued on back page)*

### September is National Preparedness Month!

FKDC is proud to be a member of the National Preparedness Month Coalition. FKDC encourages all Floridians to:

- Get a Kit
- Make a Plan
- Be Informed
- Get Involved

## Member Spotlight

Linda Carroll has been a member of the Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition since its inception in November 2005. Ms. Carroll has been involved in providing dialysis for 36 years, 33 years of which were spent with Fresenius Medical Care, NA. During her time in the dialysis field, she has served both as an administrator and a clinician.

Ms. Carroll's primary interest is in education, and she has worked diligently over the past three years to provide education and outreach regarding the needs of kidney patients during disasters. "My true love has always been education, that is what I have always wanted to do. Being a part of FKDC gives me that opportunity."

Prior to becoming involved with FKDC, Ms. Carroll worked with Hillsborough County Emergency Management to develop a plan for the county's dialysis



patients. As an FKDC member, Ms. Carroll has helped to conduct and develop facility mock drills, coordinate Community Partner Meetings, and exhibit at patient and professional meetings.

In April 2008, FKDC formally elected officers for the first time and Ms. Carroll was elected as the FKDC Chairperson. For this reason, and because of her ongoing passion and dedication to the kidney community, FKDC honors Linda Carroll in our Member Spotlight.

*"We, as a coalition, have made enormous progress in the last year." - Linda Carroll, RN (FKDC Chairperson)*

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### **Member Organizations**

Agency For Healthcare Administration  
American Association of Kidney Patients  
American Nephrology Nurses' Association  
American Renal Associates  
Central Florida Kidney Center  
Council of Nephrology Social Workers  
DaVita  
Family Physician's Group  
Florida Department of Health  
Florida House of Representatives  
Florida Renal Administrators Association  
Florida Society of Nephrology  
FMQAI: The Florida ESRD Network  
Fresenius Medical Care, NA  
Hillsborough County Emergency Management  
Kidney Group of Clearwater  
LifeLink Healthcare Institute  
Manatee County Emergency Management  
National Kidney Foundation of Florida  
North Beach Dialysis  
Orange County Emergency Management  
Palm Beach County Emergency Management  
Pinellas County Emergency Management  
Polk County Emergency Management  
Sarasota Physician's Dialysis  
Seminole County Emergency Management  
Tallahassee Memorial Hospital  
TECO Energy

## **National Preparedness Month** *(continued from page 3)*

available on the *Ready* website, [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). Remember, it is important for individuals to review the list and consider where they live and the unique needs of their families in order to create an emergency supply kit that will meet these needs. This is especially true for kidney patients.

**Make a Plan** – All individuals, businesses, and families should have an emergency plan. One website that will help citizens develop a plan is [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org). Additionally, it is important to remember that if your plan is to evacuate and you will require special assistance, you should register with the local emergency management office. A list of these offices can be found on [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org), or call 850-413-9969.

**Be Informed** – Knowing the difference between the different types of emergencies and their appropriate responses is a critical aspect of disaster planning. FKDC has developed an online educational course (available on [www.fkdc.org](http://www.fkdc.org)), which offers free CEUs, entitled, "All-Hazards I: Identifying and Preparing for Potential Emergencies and Disasters." This course takes an all-hazards approach in providing an introduction to disasters, explaining how to identify them, discussing how they can impact a community, and providing information on how to prepare and respond to them.



**Get Involved** – There are several resources available for Floridians interested in getting involved. One resource is [www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org), which is the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. Additionally, on the American Red Cross website ([www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)), you can find your local Red Cross chapter, where you can get trained to volunteer in your community. Finally, individuals that would like more information on how to get involved with FKDC can find out more by emailing [fkdc@nw7.esrd.net](mailto:fkdc@nw7.esrd.net).

As members of the National Preparedness Month Coalition, FKDC looks forward to working with the Florida renal community this September in encouraging individuals, families, businesses, and communities to take action and prepare for emergencies. We're taking steps as an organization to become educated, trained, and better prepared, and we urge all citizens to take time this September and year round, to do the same at home.