



SAVE THE DATE!

**Kidney Community
Emergency Response (KCER)
Coalition Community Partner
Conference—May 4, 2009 in
Dallas, Texas.**

The KCER Coalition provides technical assistance to ESRD Networks, CMS organizations, and other groups to ensure timely and efficient emergency preparedness, response and recovery for the kidney community.

The Community Partner Conference is intended to educate community partners on kidney specific emergency preparedness. The agenda will focus on special requirements of dialysis and transplant patients, inclusion of the ESRD population in emergency and disaster plans, and continuity of care for the kidney community. This is in support of the regulation requiring dialysis facilities to establish a relationship with local disaster planners.

To learn more about KCER, please visit www.kcercoalition.com.

If you are interested in attending the meeting, please email kcer@nw7.esrd.net.

The Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition

Conditions for Coverage Focus: Communicating with Emergency Management

The Conditions for Coverage are the minimum health and safety standards that End Stage Renal Disease (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, or until October 14, 2008, to comply with the new rule.

An important and related piece of the Conditions for Coverage is the Interpretive Guidelines (IG). The IGs provide guidance for state surveyors in conducting surveys of providers participating in the Medicare program. They clarify and/or explain the Conditions for Coverage and are used in measuring compliance with Federal requirements. The purpose of the guidelines is to provide suggestions, interpretations, checklists, and other tools for the surveyor to use throughout the survey process.



A dialysis patient updates her emergency contact information with her dialysis unit. Dialysis patients require treatment three times a week for approximately four hours per treatment.

The updated Conditions and IGs include specific language related to disaster preparedness and response. One of the key changes in the new Conditions is related to developing a relationship with the local emergency management agency. Specifically, the language now includes: *(continued on page 2)*

FKDC Debuts New Exhibit Booth!

The Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition (FKDC) was very pleased to debut its new exhibit booth at the FMQAI: The Florida ESRD Network (Network 7) Annual Meeting. The meeting had more than 400 attendees from the renal community including administrators, nephrologists, nurses, technicians, transplant facilities, pharmaceutical companies and dozens of exhibitors. The focus of this year's Forum was the new ESRD Conditions for Coverage with the theme of, "A Kickoff to Quality: Scoring Points for Patient Care."

The new FKDC booth was a huge success. Providers displayed an increased interest in FKDC tools and resources, with a particular interest in which resources could assist them in complying with the new Conditions. In anticipation of this need, FKDC developed specific marketing materials outlining the new Conditions for emergency preparedness and providing a list of FKDC resources that could assist providers in achieving compliance. *(continued on page 3)*

Conditions for Coverage *(continued from page 1)*

- **Conditions for Coverage:** A facility must contact its local disaster management agency at least annually to ensure that such agency is aware of dialysis facility needs in the event of an emergency.
- **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.

Since its inception, FKDC has promoted the importance of an ongoing, collaborative relationship with a facility's local emergency management agency. For example, FKDC facilitated Community Partner Meetings in several Florida counties, including Hillsborough, Pinellas, Miami-Dade and Leon. The 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. These meetings also 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 develops and disseminates tools and resources to the Florida renal community to assist them in gaining compliance with this specific part of the Conditions. These tools, as well as many others, are available for download on the FKDC website, www.fkdc.org. Some of the most helpful tools include:

- **Provider Demographic Form** –The purpose of this tool is to assist providers in communicating facility demographic information to the county emergency management office servicing their area. The form

provides information on facility contact information, number of stations, generator and water hookup capability and utility accounts.

- **ESF 8 Fact Sheet** – This informational piece provides a basic explanation of the Emergency Support Function 8 (Health and Medical Services) and provides tips for communicating effectively with your local ESF 8 / emergency management officials.
- **Opening Questions for Emergency Management** – This tool is a sample script for use in opening a dialogue with your local emergency management contacts. You will also find suggestions for developing / improving your working relationship.
- **Community Partner Packet** – An outstanding resource for your local emergency management officials. This packet includes information to help emergency planners incorporate the special requirements of the kidney community into their jurisdiction's emergency and disaster plans.
- **Save a Life Fact Sheet** – This is an excellent tool that describes the basic facts about kidney disease and treatments. It can be used to educate non-renal stakeholders on the unique needs of renal patients during disasters.

Emergency preparedness is a critical component to ensuring the health and safety of patients and providing quality care. By requiring providers to establish a collaborative relationship with the local emergency management agency, an important dialogue can be opened between ESRD providers and community stakeholders, both renal and non-renal. FKDC will continue to provide information, education, and resources that can assist ESRD providers in complying with the new Conditions, thereby enhancing the quality and safety of patient care.

Are you interested in holding a Community Partner Meeting in your county? FKDC can provide tools, resources, presentations and technical assistance for your Community Partner Meeting.

Visit www.fkdc.org, or email us at fkdc@nw7.esrd.net.

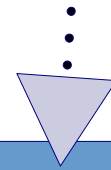
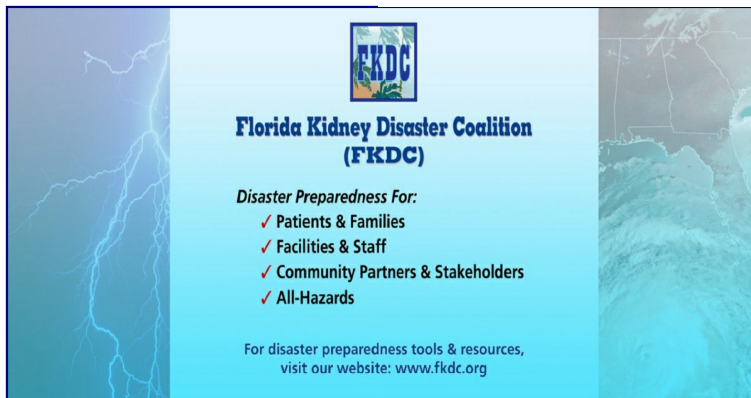
Remember, the Conditions now require ESRD providers to make annual contact with their local emergency management agency!

FKDC Debuts New Exhibit Booth! *(continued from page 1)*

In addition to the debut of the new exhibit booth (pictured below), FKDC was excited to hold the second annual Paw Draw Raffle, a raffle drawing for a fully stocked pet preparedness basket. FKDC received over 51 raffle submissions this year, quite a significant increase from the 35 submitted last year! Winners were drawn and the basket was given away at the Annual Awards Luncheon.

FKDC congratulates the 2008 Paw Draw winner, Gail Levy, from Cypress Creek Dialysis Center.

FKDC would also like to provide a special thanks to volunteers Susan Kreuter and Linda Carroll who helped with the Paw Draw and staffed the booth at the meeting. We are pleased to be a part of such growing success in the ESRD community.



Please Join Us!

FKDC will be exhibiting for the NKF Renal Professionals Forum. The meeting is scheduled for June 25—26, 2009 in Weston, Florida.

We hope to see you there!

The logo for the Renal Professionals Forum, featuring the words 'RENAL PROFESSIONALS FORUM' in white capital letters on a red rectangular background.

Member Spotlight

FMQAI: The Florida ESRD Network held its 2008 Annual Forum from October 27 – 29, 2008 in Tampa, Florida. During the Forum, the first annual Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition Disaster Preparedness Award was presented. This inaugural award was developed to honor an individual that has made outstanding contributions in disaster preparedness for dialysis and kidney transplant patients, healthcare workers, and emergency management in the state of Florida. FKDC is proud to spotlight one of our key members as the recipient of the inaugural FKDC Disaster Preparedness Award: Susan Kreuter, LCSW.

The Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition's mission is to establish and facilitate partnerships that provide a framework for disaster readiness and continuity of care for the renal community. Ms. Kreuter's actions have led the FKDC to new heights by identifying gaps and working diligently to bridge them. When barriers arise, Ms. Kreuter will not take "no" for an answer. She is an ideal volunteer for FKDC, often leading topics and addressing issues at meetings, while taking the time and consideration to ensure important follow-up.



Ms. Kreuter has advanced the needs of the kidney community to top-level emergency management planners in the Miami-Dade area, an area that has proved difficult to engage. She built new and strong relationships with local leadership and coordinated critical stakeholder meetings between providers and emergency management. She truly upholds the FKDC mission and is one of the driving forces behind the Coalition.

All members of the Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition congratulate Susan Kreuter for her outstanding dedication, energy and service, which have served to increase disaster awareness and preparation for ESRD patients, providers and stakeholders. Thank you, Susan!

"If every member of the Renal Community would take responsibility for just one task, and share the results, together we will reach our goals in no time!"

- Susan Kreuter

Member Organizations

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

Now's the time: The *Ready Campaign* Encourages Americans to *Resolve to be Ready* In 2009



With the new year approaching, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Ready Campaign is reminding Americans

to *Resolve to be Ready* in 2009. *Resolve to be Ready* is a nationwide effort designed to encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to take action and prepare for emergencies in the new year.

"Individual planning is the cornerstone of emergency preparedness," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "Since establishing this department and Ready, we have come a long way in raising the baseline of preparedness in this country, but we still have a long way to go. As 2009 approaches, I urge all Americans to consider the importance – and real value – of being prepared for all hazards."

Being ready for emergencies can be an easy New Year's resolution to keep by following the Ready Campaign's three simple steps: 1) Get an emergency supply kit; 2) Make a family emergency plan; and 3) Be informed about the types of emergencies that can happen in your area and their appropriate responses.

By taking these three steps – in particular having an emergency supply kit both at home and in the car –

Americans will be prepared for emergencies of all types. Each of these kits should include basic necessities such as water, food and first aid supplies to help you survive if you are without power or become stranded in your vehicle. Complete checklists for each kit are available at www.ready.gov.

This year, the Ready Campaign is employing new media strategies to promote emergency preparedness. By using Twitter, a social networking tool, Ready hopes to not only reach new audiences, but also to open the lines of communication with the public, ensuring emergency preparedness is top of mind year-round. Twitter users can stay up-to-date on the latest Ready activities by following their username, "ReadydotGov," on Twitter.

By making the decision to *Resolve to be Ready* in 2009 and following the simple preparedness steps in advance, Americans will minimize the impact of emergencies on themselves, their family and their businesses. By visiting www.ready.gov, individuals can access free materials that will help them make and keep a New Year's resolution that will bring their families peace of mind.

Resources for year round preparedness are also available on the FKDC website: www.fkdc.org. We're taking steps as an organization to become educated, trained, and better prepared, and we urge all citizens to take time this 2009 to do the same at home.