

ESRD NETWORK 13

Serving Arkansas, Louisiana & Oklahoma Renal Communities



September 11, 2008

TO: Louisiana At-Risk Area Dialysis and Transplant Providers (Southern Louisiana)
(Medical Directors, Nurse Managers, and Administrators)

FROM: Linda Duval, RN, BSN (405.948.2244 or lduval@nw13.esrd.net)
Director, Quality Improvement

Subject: **Disaster Preparedness (HURRICANE IKE)**

There appears to be a strong likelihood that another tropical storm/hurricane will impact on portions of southern Louisiana in the next 5 days. We recognize that any projection is just that, 'a projection', but we are recommending that all dialysis care providers re-visit their disaster plans and implement precautions accordingly. **If you are already working with patients on transient services, please strongly recommend to folks that they head NORTH and away from the Gulf Coast region as opposed to west.** We will provide information regarding special needs shelters as soon as information has been released.

Please make sure that all patients have the appropriate medical records in their possession to assist in any emergency dialysis as needed, as well as your facility's specific instructions as to renal diet and fluid restrictions. Also please recognize that if your back-up facility is in your immediate area, it MAY OR MAY NOT be available to assist with your needs, especially given the recovery efforts from Hurricane Gustav that are still in progress.

PLEASE VISIT THE NETWORK WEB SITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS NEEDED. The Network has updated our Web site (www.network13.org) and will continue placing announcements and priority information on the home page for ease in obtaining items. We have also provided links for additional information via Louisiana newspapers to assist in obtaining local notices (e.g., transportation, shelters, etc.). If you have announcements that your organization would like placed on the Network Web site (i.e., toll-free numbers, Web sites), just call or email. Every effort will be made to assist in communications. Remember to utilize the information in your recently distributed Network 13 disaster preparedness materials as necessary. Again, we don't wish to alarm anyone, but everyone must be prepared to act sooner rather than later for the folks who are dependent upon life-saving health care services and their families.

Network 13 Disaster Preparedness Toll Free Phone Numbers

PATIENTS: 1.800.472.8664 STAFF: 1.877.700.1196

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Mission Statement: "To assess and improve the quality of care provided to individuals with End Stage Renal Disease."