

EMERGENCY RESPONSE—WINTER WEATHER

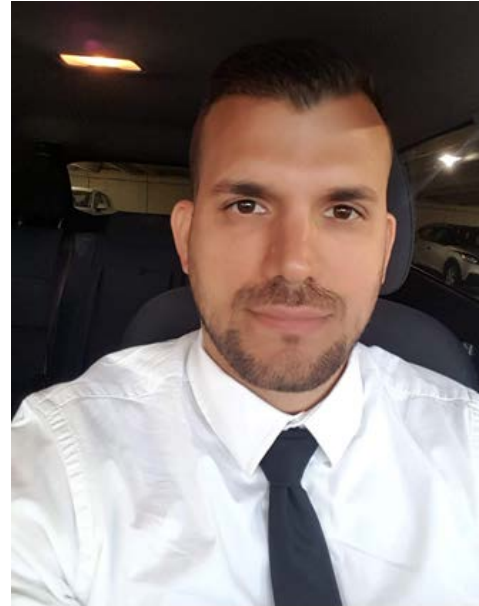
LONG TERM CARE & DIALYSIS FACILITIES



SPEAKERS



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PREPARATION

Long Term Care

- Establish Emergency Command
- Communication with staff, residents, vendors
- Overnight accommodations for staff
- Ensure enough food, water, supplies, medications, etc.
- Ready vehicles—snow removal, transport
- Preparation reminders for residents and staff
- Review list of at-risk residents
- Prepare for potential loss of infrastructure and systems (EMR, power, phones, emergency systems)

Dialysis Providers

- Develop policies and procedures based on the facilities' Emergency Plan and Risk Assessment in collaboration with emergency management agencies.
 - Must address a range of issues including evacuation plans, procedures for sheltering in place, tracking patients and staff during an emergency.
- Maintain situational awareness - assess level of impact of impending storm. Network sends email communication to all providers.
- Provide patients with three day diet education in the event they are not able to make it to dialysis.
- Inform patients of whom to contact if the facility is closed and cannot provide treatment due to an emergency situation and how they can locate their backup or alternate dialysis facility or hospital that can assist them.



RESPONSE



Long Term Care

- Prioritize roads/walkways and response
- Check in with staff throughout the storm—ensure breaks, sleeping schedules, accommodations, supplies, time to check in with families/friends, food/water
- Monitor at-risk residents. Be prepared to offer additional support and services.
- Establish a rally point (warmth, supplies, call for help)
- Ongoing response

Dialysis Providers

- Activate / implement facilities contingency plans.
- Contact all MWF / TTS patients to go in for treatment before the storm and inform of facility's closing day.
 - All patients must be accounted for
- Communicate with patients' transportation company to make all necessary adjustments.
- Clearing of facility parking lots to allow for patients and staff to return.
- Assess impact to home dialysis patients who have lost power.

COMMUNICATION



Long Term Care

- Communication prior to and throughout the winter storm with staff, residents, vendors, families, stakeholders
- Ensure alternative communication methods, such as social media and website
- Report to regulatory organizations as indicated
- Coalition, use of VHASS



Dialysis Providers

- Dialysis facilities are required to track the location of patients and staff during and after an emergency.
- Notification must be made to the Network if a facility's operational status changes or patient access to care is compromised. Report facility status in VHASS and to the Network.
- Network facilitates communication between patients, dialysis providers, state/community stakeholders and KCER/CMS.

AFTER ACTION RESPONSE/LESSONS LEARNED

Long Term Care

- Back up plans for the back up plans
- Importance of MOUs; more than one for each service
- Utilization of Coalition and VHASS
- Ensure a good communication plan
- Supplies for staff (extra scrubs/clothing, toiletries, cords to charge cell phones, snacks)
- Have a plan for extended loss of power for buildings not supported by generator
- Emergency supplies—blankets, flashlights, lanterns, batteries
- Close coordination with local/regional emergency services

Dialysis Providers

- Dialysis facilities' needs to continue operations during an emergency:
 - Water, Electricity, Staff and Patient transportation
- A dialysis facility needs an average of 30 gallons of water per patient to provide one treatment.
 - Virginia has 13,243 patients = ~1.2 million gallons of water weekly
 - Every treatment a dialysis patient misses puts their life at risk
- There are also kidney transplanted patients in VA who will need access to their immunosuppressive drugs.
- Inviting dialysis providers and patients to participate in community-based exercises.

Any
Questions