



The End Stage Renal Disease Network Of Texas

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MEMO TO: Administrator & DON
FROM: Glenda Harbert, Director

DATE: September 8, 2008

RE: Imminent Hurricane- Hurricane Ike has been declared a threat to the Texas Gulf Coast, and the State of Texas is in full disaster preparation mode.

The purpose of this memo to ensure that we are as prepared as possible for what appears to be a Hurricane Landfall in Texas in the early morning hours of Saturday, September 13th.

Evacuation of Medical Special Needs patients will probably commence on Wednesday, September 10th. If/when mandatory evacuation is ordered, contra-flow routes will be employed in most areas that will force people to follow certain routes. Facilities that are in the coastal areas should already have downloaded maps of the routes that patients and staff would take to evacuate and educated patients about these routes and their dialysis and needs.

It is very important that you ascertain where your patients plan to go and arrange transient dialysis with affiliated facilities. Additionally evacuating staff should be sent to assist with the provision of transient dialysis whenever possible.

Facilities that are not in a hurricane area but are on Evacuation Routes should immediately download the maps where the Evacuation Routes come through or near your city so you can plan for a surge in dialysis treatments that will be required. Make a plan NOW with your staff as to how you will meet the need of the evacuating patients should the need arise. Be sure to have extra supplies on hand. The State will also use a Hub City arrangement for evacuating medical Special Needs patients. **Dallas/Fort Worth and San Antonio have been identified as definite Hub Cities.** The last list provided by the state included Lubbock, El Paso, Abilene, Midland/Odessa & San Angelo as cities that may also receive evacuees.

Maps can be downloaded at:

http://www.texasonline.com/v3/emergency/docs/hurr_evac_contra_brochure_ih45.pdf

Houston to Dallas

http://www.texasonline.com/v3/emergency/docs/hurr_evac_contra_brochure_ih10.pdf

Houston to San Antonio

http://www.texasonline.com/v3/emergency/docs/hurr_evac_contra_brochure_us290.pdf

Houston to Austin, College Station, Waco, Bryan

http://www.texasonline.com/v3/emergency/docs/hurr_evac_contra_brochure_us59.pdf

Houston to Nacogdoches

http://www.texasonline.com/v3/emergency/docs/hurr_evac_contra_brochure_ih37.pdf

Corpus to San Antonio

Maps of risk area assessments and non Contraflow evacuation routes are at:

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/downloadableforms.htm#hurricanemaps>

For resources go to our website at www.esrdnetwork.org and click on Disaster Resources. Additional resources can be found on www.kcercoalition.com . If you do not have Internet access, contact the Network and a packet will be sent to you. The full assistance of the Network is available if needed by your facility to complete your disaster plan. We can also refer you to a mentor facility locally that will provide assistance. **Each facility has acknowledged understanding and agreed to participate in meeting the ESRD Network Goals and Objectives to ensure the provision of safe and effective care for ESRD patients, by doing the following:**

Appoint NW facility Disaster Representatives:

Each facility must designate a disaster representative and provide 2 contact mechanisms, one of which must be a non-facility contact. The information from EMSsystem is being used by the Network for the disaster contacts. This representative may be a regional administrator if desired.

Use of EMSsystem

During this and any emergency it is critical that updates be provided on a real time basis to allow for patient placements. Alerts will be sent out with vital updates and information requests from the State and other local EOC's. Please read and respond to these alerts in a timely basis.

- **Be sure to indicate if you are diverting (can't take any more patients), evacuating or CLOSED.**
- **Be sure to add generator information for your facility.**
- **Be sure to update the current census and patient capacity. Capacity is the # of approved stations X # shifts operating (or could operate with existing staff). Most facilities would use a maximum of 6 shifts (3 on M-W-F & 3 on T-T-S).**

Disaster preparations

Educate patients for disaster readiness on at least the following:

- 3 Day Disaster Diet*- it is critical they follow the diet while evacuating and until they begin to receive regular dialysis again.
- Medications
- How to determine if unit is open after disaster
- Use of State of Texas 211 System for evacuation of persons with Medical Special Needs that have no transportation- **this needs to be done as soon as possible.**

Provide emergency records for evacuation which include the following:

- Most recent treatment sheet MARKED- **ORIGINAL SEND WITH PATIENT** and highlighted in yellow if possible.
- Physician Orders
- Medication List
- Most recent Labs including Hepatitis status

*A template for emergency records can be found on our website**

Provide pre-evacuation HD treatment even if only a short 1-2 hour treatment can be provided. This is critical to successful and safe evacuation for patients.

- Arrange transient dialysis in advance in evacuation situations whenever possible. This requires: Advance agreements with sister and other facilities.
- Knowledge of patients' evacuation plans and contact information. Keep this information for your records.

We encourage participation in the Texas Emergency ESRD Coalition and use of the TEEC purple armbands and fanny packs for evacuation for coastal areas. **Emergency Operations at all levels of the State have been informed to watch for these purple identifiers to locate ESRD patients and provide special assistance to them.**

It is not too late to contact the Emergency Operations Center in your city to personally inform them of the dialysis unit and the special needs population; in particular, the need to provide dialysis prior to evacuation.