



SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER

October 2014

Continued Medi-Cal Mandatory Enrollment

Medi-Cal recipients will be forced into an HMO on the month of your birthday. If you have “straight” medi-cal now, it is only a matter of time until you are forced into enrolling in a plan of either IEHP or Molina. Please talk to your social workers before enrolling in a plan or if you need assistance with your Medi-Cal mandatory enrollment. *ON YOUR BIRTH MONTH YOU WILL BE IN A MEDI-CAL HMO.*

New Unit on Bear Valley and Amethyst Open

As many have noticed and heard the new Desert Cities Dialysis unit is open and accepting patients. We are still pending documentation from CMS which allows persons with Medicare and Medi-Cal to go to our new unit. Other insurances such as Kaiser, Caremore, Blue Cross, SCAN, United Healthcare have already began sending patients to the new unit. In summary, if you have “straight” Medicare or Medi-Cal you still have a little longer to wait for now.

Part of the changes at the Victorville unit as a result of patients moving to the Amethyst unit is a reduction and eventual elimination of the 4th shift. Therefore, if you are on a late shift you should expect at sometime in the future for your dialysis treatment time to be moved to earlier in the day.

Dialysis Support Group

High Desert Kidney Hope has a support group every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

October 14th 6:00 to 7:30 pm
October 28th 6:00 to 7:30 pm

The Dialysis Support Group is held at the Desert Community Bank on Hesperia Rd and Silica on the Northwest corner. Please join us!

Advanced Health Care Directives

While almost none of us are comfortable with the idea of being incapacitated or even of dying, unfortunately it is an inevitable part of life. So many times friends and family are caught in a situation where they are not sure of their loved one’s wishes.

We urge you to spare your friends and loved ones the burden and ensure that your wants are carried out in the event you cannot choose, so:

- 1) Please complete your Advanced Directives
- 2) Please complete your final arrangements.

There are inexpensive, even free ways to prepare as long as it is done in advance! Please talk to your social workers about options for you.

RMS Healthcare Surveys

Desert Cities Dialysis had contracted with RMS Healthcare to conduct surveys for quality improvement. Please return calls and/or mailings to help us continually make Desert Cities Dialysis the best it can be. We need your honest input!! Please respond to our surveys. As always, your responses will be anonymous. This third party surveying service does not include any names with the results of the survey.





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FREE Cellular Phone and 250 Monthly Minutes

For those that qualify, this government assisted program will provide a free cell phone and discounted monthly minutes. You may automatically qualify by being in a public assistance program such as: Medi-CAL, Section 8, WIC, or Food Stamps.

Enrollment is simple, just call 1-877-777-1914, or see one of your social workers for assistance.

Holiday Assistance

If you have children in your life who do not receive Christmas gifts due to limited income the time to apply is now. There are limited applications accepted.

Christmas Toys

Catholic Charities: (909) 880-3625
Toys for Tots: (703) 910-0259
www.toysfortots.org (Appl. Start 10/1)
Salvation Army: (760) 245-2545
Victor Valley Rescue: (760) 955-5958

Low Vision and Blindness Services

There are many programs available for persons with limited vision.

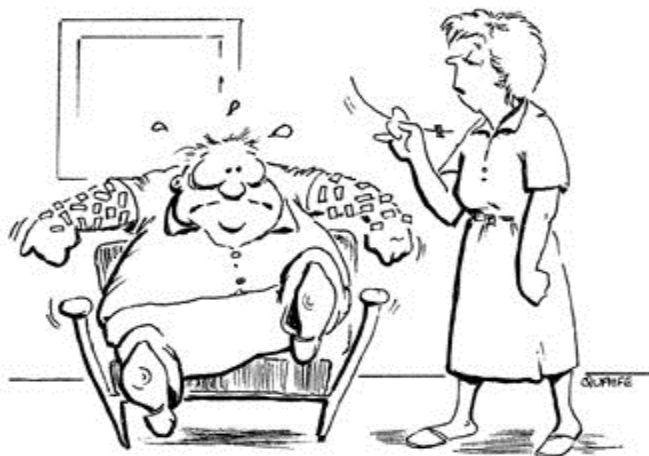
Blindness Support Services (BSS). This program offers training for 1) orientation and mobility 2) travelling 3) independent living 3) computers 4) employment and job development 5) parenting and 6) peer support. Call them if you or a loved one have limited vision (951) 341-9244.

The Braille Institute for blind training, equipment and services including books on tape with equipment and books sent to your home at no charge. (800) 808-2555.

Vocational Rehabilitation also offers free blind services, training and equipment for those looking to rejoin the work force but have visual impairments. They also provide training and education for other disabilities to join the work force. Call them at (760) 243-0830.

Vocational Rehabilitation works with all disabled persons looking to rejoin the workforce. If you are interested in going to school or receiving training to enter to workforce please see your social worker. You can receive additional income while on social security!

HUMOR



Don't worry, I'll find a good site soon.