



SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER

September 2014

MANDATORY MEDI-CAL HMO

Unfortunately, we have been made aware now that all Medi-Cal recipients will be forced into an HMO on the month of their 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.*

Please Do Not Go Hungry

There are many food banks, food distributions, and emergency services available. If you or your family are planning to go without food or basic necessities please talk with your social worker! There are also grants available to help dialysis patients and families with low incomes. Your social workers have more information, please ask them.

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.

September 9th 6:00 to 7:30 pm

September 23rd 6:00 to 7:30 pm

It is held at the Desert Community Bank on Hesperia Rd and Silica. Please join us!

Getting the Most out of SSI

For persons receiving SSI, there are 2 levels of payment.

- 1) If your shelter and basic needs are provided by someone else

then you receive approximately \$660 per month.

- 2) If you pay an equal share (Rent+ Utilities divided by # of adults) Then you are entitled to approximately \$860 per month.

IF your situation has changed from #1 to #2 then make an appointment at Social Security and bring in proof that you are paying your share of the bills in order to increase your SSI payment.

Kidney Disease Fundraisers

High Desert Kidney Hope is holding a car wash on Saturday September 13th from 8 am to 2 pm. It is on 7th street in Victorville by the Salvation Army. So, come on down and show your support!

Also, on September 26 and 27 to raise money through a huge kidney yard sale. If you have items or time to donate, talk to your social worker. It will be on Friday and Saturday from 8 am to 2 pm and any volunteers or donations are welcome. Thank you.

Rights and Responsibilities

All dialysis patients in the United States have certain rights and responsibilities that are provided to you upon admission and also are posted on the bulletin board. Please make yourself familiar so that you understand your rights and your responsibilities on dialysis: Request a copy of your own. Below is a VERY brief Summary:

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Understand the nature and treatment of kidney disease and provide information to staff.





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2. Question if you don't understand
3. Comply with treatment program and medications prescribed.
4. Comply with facility rules
5. Ask to speak with a charge nurse or director if you have concerns about a staff's performance.
6. Ask for assistance with a specific problem or need.
7. Ensure your insurance pays
8. Be considerate and respectful
9. Wait your turn
10. Be clear on your requests
11. Do not share what you hear at dialysis with other people.
12. Never threaten harm or act violently
13. File complaints according to policy
14. Help make and follow through with treatment plan.
15. Contact staff for medical, psychological, social or dietary needs
16. Seek enough information from staff to feel comfortable with new procedure
17. Secure services of a nephrologist
18. Understand consequences of not following treatment plan
19. Know/follow the rules of conduct
20. Provide facility with complete and current documents/advanced directive
21. Make every effort to be on time and call if you need to reschedule.
22. Make and confirm financial arrangements with travelling dialysis
23. Apply for part B coverage
24. Notify facility of insurance changes
25. Be aware of copays and costs
26. Learn emergency procedures
27. Provide emergency contacts
28. Know how to call your physician
29. Try to settle disagreements here
30. Know facility grievance procedures
31. Use ESRD Network 18 grievance only after exhausting facility's procedure

RIGHTS:

1. Be informed of treatment modalities available.
 2. Given complete and current information on diagnosis and treatment
 3. Be informed of innovations for treatment
 4. Review labs and have them explained
 5. Be informed of medications prescribed, their function and side effect
 6. Quality high standard health care
 7. Participation in treatment plan
 8. New staff be supervised
 9. Receive communication assistance to understand treatment plan.
 10. Treated with dignity and respect
 11. Staff will listen to suggestions regarding your treatment plan.
 12. Privacy in exams or medical discussions.
 13. Information is confidential
 14. Medical care without discrimination
 15. Choose nephrologist and dialysis center of your liking.
 16. Receive social work and dietitian
 17. Give informed consent prior to new treatment or procedure.
 18. Refuse or withdraw consent for treatment at any time.
 19. Have Advanced Directives on file
 20. Expect a clean well run facility that follows laws and safety rules
 21. Be informed of emergency procedure
 22. Receive emergency medical care promptly
 23. Know the rules for how care is provided at the facility.
 24. Be informed of facility charges and services not covered.
 25. Given treatment at close to scheduled times
 26. File a complaint if you feel care is not safe with facility/Network 18
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