



SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015

Previous Issues of Newsletter

To find previous issues of our Social Work Newsletter as well as information on our clinic, contact phone numbers and our nephrologist's information, check out our website:
www.desertcitiesdialysis.com

Dialysis Support Group

High Desert Kidney Hope's dialysis support group has moved locations to the Heritage Building #34 on Hesperia Rd. Right next to Vitelli's Deli. Every month it is held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 6 to 7:30pm. This month, the groups will be held: **July 14 and July 28 from 6 to 7:30pm.**

Traveling for the Summer?

If you are planning on making a trip to another area for vacation or other necessary ventures, please notify your social workers. With some insurances it can take up to 3 or 4 weeks to receive an authorization. Please give 1 month notice before traveling to allow us enough time to set up all necessary arrangements.

We encourage you to travel and experience events and vacations with your loved ones, please talk to us about how the process works so you can begin your next adventure.

Photography on Dialysis

No photography is allowed whatsoever in the dialysis clinic. Whether on a phone, I-pad, camera or any other device there are no photos allowed. We must respect the confidentiality of other people here at the clinic. Please do not take photos or video while at dialysis. Please respect other people's privacy.

Numbing Cream

The manufacturer of our numbing cream has stopped producing the "Less n pain" cream. We now only offer local shots for numbing around your access.

Patient's Rights and Responsibilities

We advise all persons to know their rights and responsibilities on dialysis. Your rights and responsibilities are posted on the bulletin boards in English and Spanish. They are given to each person upon admission to Desert Cities Dialysis. **KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS.** There will be a test later in the month. Additional copies are available to you at any time. Please let your social worker know if you do not have yours.

Home Hemodialysis Option

We are proud to be the only dialysis clinic in the high desert to provide home-hemodialysis! This is through a contract with Nextstage for cutting edge medical supplies and home dialysis machines. Why change to home hemo? This modality allows you:

- 1) The flexibility of dialysis treatment time.
- 2) Freedom of mobility and travel.
- 3) More liberal diet and fluid intake.
- 4) Less stress on your heart.
- 5) Statistically lower infection risks.

With home hemo you will dialyze more frequently keeping fluid and toxins from being in your system as long. Typical individuals dialyze about 3 hours 5 x week, varying by your body makeup. Talk to your staff about brochures and DVDs available to get more information.



SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015

Attention:

Veterans and Surviving Spouses

You may qualify for financial assistance to help pay for in-home care and assistance through the Aid and Attendance benefit. The Aid and Attendance pension can offer help to veterans that are disabled or over the age of 65.

To qualify for the A&A benefit program, a veteran must meet eligibility requirements in three areas: War-time service, medical need and financial need.

Any war-time veteran with 90 days of active duty may be eligible for this pension. At least one day must have been during a time of war.

To qualify medically, a veteran must require assistance with activities of daily living; such as, bathing, dressing, laundry and personal care.

And lastly, Aid and Attendance is based on financial need. The current award amounts for those that qualify are as follows:

- \$1632 per month for each veteran
- \$1055 per month for a surviving spouse, and
- \$1949 per month for a couple.

Visit www.aidandattendance.org for more information.

Advance Health Care Directives

We have discussed in previous issues the importance of having Advanced Directives in the event you are not able to speak on your own behalf. These are of great importance, your social worker has forms and can assist you. Please take the time and complete one for your sake and the sake of those you care about. A Notary is available if needed.

Vocational Rehabilitation

If you are interested in returning to work but do not have the job skills or your health interferes with working, then Vocational Rehab. May be the option for you! It retrains, teaches skills in managing disabilities in the workplace, and pays for schooling or trade school. Contact your Local Vocational Rehabilitation office and fill out an application to begin services:
(760) 243-6024 (Voice)
(760) 245-4127 (TTY)
15415 W. Sand Street - Second Floor
in Victorville.

Safety Net Grants

American Kidney Fund has reopened their grant to assist patients with dialysis related expenses. Limit of \$100 per year per patient. Talk to your social worker about applying for assistance paying for medications, transportation, or other health related expenses.

Humor

