



SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016

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.

Safety Net Grants

American Kidney Fund is still accepting grant applications. Their grant is 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.

Emergency Procedures

We have passed out many fliers on Summer Safety that includes power outages and wildfire information. Also, we have passed out the emergency 3 day diet for dialysis patients which will equip you with how to eat and drink in the event you are unable to get dialysis. In the event of a disaster you can call Network 18 at 1-800-637-4767 to get updates on the status of your treatment facility. Talk to your social worker if you have not yet received the handouts.

Summer Travel

If you are planning to travel or move, there is a process for ensuring there is no gap in treatments. Please talk to your social worker about arranging treatment. An absolute minimum of 2 weeks' notice is necessary to arrange treatments.

DMV Placards or Plates

If you are having difficulty walking from the parking lot to the store, talk to your doctor or social worker at the dialysis unit about completing the REG 195 form which is an application signed by your doctor verifying a medical condition that limits your mobility. We have the forms on hand, or you can find them at dmv.ca.gov

Activities on Dialysis

We encourage you to bring activities to do while on dialysis to keep the time from feeling overwhelming. We also have books on tape, word searches, books to read, and other activities. Feel free to bring your laptop or phones to connect with our wireless network. Many people also bring portable DVD players to watch their favorite movies or a magazine that interests you. Staying on treatment for your entire prescribed time will eliminate more toxins, remove excess fluid and statistically will make you live a longer life!

Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino

A comprehensive program to help low income persons in need. They have a weatherization program, food donations, and utility/rental assistance. They assist with paying bills, replacing broken or inefficient appliances, emergency supplies and many other resources. Contact their office at (909) 723-1500

Dialysis Support Group

High Desert Kidney Hope's dialysis support group is currently **on hold** until interest in attending the support group increases.



SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016

Renal Support Network

HOPEline Peer Support Phone Line

(800) 579-1970

Log onto www.rsnhope.org for events, online support and coffee chats for dialysis patients. Don't suffer through this alone, reach out and connect.

Grief and Loss

Persons on dialysis are experiencing many losses. Loss of freedom, loss of health, loss of finances, loss of friends, loss of abilities, sometimes loss of intimate relationships and many more.

In addition, sometimes we lose loved ones or important people in our lives. Loss can result in overwhelming sadness or anger.

If you have lost a loved one and are having difficulty coping, there are local support groups for grief and loss. Please talk with your social worker for support locally, to be there in your time of need.

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.

Do You Live Alone or Alone for Extended Time?

Medical alert buttons have become popular for those alone, allowing for safety and independence to seniors and the disabled. Recommended especially for those with a fall risk. Often medical alert buttons are set up through your home phone land line, allowing contact with live operators 24 hours a day in an emergency. Different companies offer a selection of plans from \$25.00 to \$40.00 monthly.

Humor

