



SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER

March 2016

Dialysis Support Group

High Desert Kidney Hope's dialysis support group is located at Heritage Building #34 on Hesperia Rd. Right next to Vitelli's Deli and the Taco Shop. Every month it is held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 6 to 7:30pm. This month, the groups will be held: **March 8th and March 22nd from 6 to 7:30pm.**

Meals on Wheels is Back!

Barstow Senior Home Nutrition is now serving Barstow, Victorville and surrounding areas. Currently NO WAITING LIST. Call today to arrange home delivered meals. This is for people who are aged or disabled and unable to leave their home to get meals. Call 760 256-9111.

Post Transplant Coverage

Many have inquired about loss of benefits after receiving a kidney transplant. Here is the breakdown of coverage.

Social Security Disability/SSI- Will continued for 1 year after the transplant unless there are complications, you are over 65 or you have other disabilities. In those cases, the disability or retirement income will be continued.

Medicare coverage- Will last 3 years after the transplant unless there are complications, you are over 65 or have other qualifying disabilities.

Medi-cal- Completely income based, will continue to provide coverage as long as you are income qualified.

Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine

St. Mary's Medical Center has a wound care center with a hyperbaric chamber for accelerated healing. If you are having issues with a wound healing talk to your doctor about referring you to the Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine. It is located at 16077 Kamana Road in Apple Valley. Phone (760) 242-2111 Fax: (760) 242-6746.

If you have straight Medicare, you can self refer to the clinic and be evaluated by a physician there.

Travelling on Dialysis

If you are travelling out of area, please notify your social worker as soon as possible to arrange dialysis while you are travelling. Social Workers need at minimum 2 weeks of notice, prefer a 1 month notice or longer. The more notice given, the more likely that travel arrangements can be made in time for your travel. Be aware that if your secondary insurance is Medi-Cal, IEHP or Molina then you will have a 20% copay for any treatments outside of California.

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.





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Incontinence and Wound Supplies

If you or a loved one requires briefs, pads, gauze, or other supplies they may be covered by your insurance. Go to www.shieldhealthcare.com or call 1-800-765-8775 to see if the supplies are covered. Social workers currently have some incontinent supplies in stock if they are not covered by your insurance.

AKF Safety Net Grant

The AKF Safety Net comes and goes, and right now they are accepting applications. This is a \$100 per year grant to reimburse patients with uncovered medical costs including transportation costs. It is an income qualified program. Talk to your social worker to see if you would qualify.

Health Insurance Premium Payment

The American Kidney Fund also has a grant to assist patients in paying for health insurance. Eligibility for this program includes:

- 1) Medicare Premium is not automatically deducted from your social security.
- 2) After your basic bills are paid, you have less than \$500 left over.
- 3) You have no liquid assets over \$3000 that could be used to pay the premium.

Please talk to your social worker if you meet these three requirements.

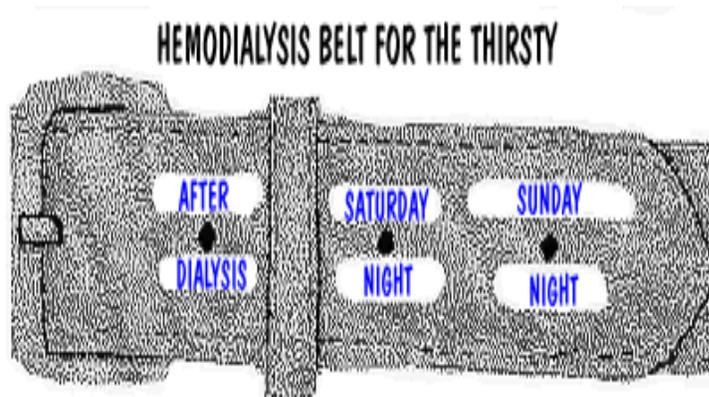
Patient's Rights and Responsibilities

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.

Audio Books for Visually Impaired

The Braille Institute has provided Desert Cities Dialysis with audio book players and about 40 books. Feel free to ask for an audio book and player to listen to while at dialysis. If you are interested in having audio books and a player at your home you can call 1-800-808-2555 and request one.

Humor



Lori Janes-Hartwell