



# *SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER*

*March 2018*

## **Dialysis ID Cards**

This past week, your social workers have given out “Dialysis Patient Identification Cards”, these are important to carry in your wallet next to your medical insurance cards in case of a medical event then it will be known that you are on dialysis and where you receive treatment.

## **Get the Facts on Transplant Flier**

This past week your social workers also provided a pamphlet on facts about kidney transplant. Kidney transplant is typically the only way to be off dialysis and return to a more free and healthy life. Read the brochure and talk to your social worker if you are interested in a referral to the transplant center to be evaluated.

## **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 continue 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 & 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.

## **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.** Additional copies are available to you at any time.





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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](http://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.

### 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.

### 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. Contact their office at (909) 723-1500

### 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: Medicare Premium is not automatically deducted from your social security.

- 1) After your basic bills are paid, you have less than \$500 left over.
- 2) 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.

### YOUR Care Conference

Your dialysis team includes your Nephrologist, nurse, dietitian and social worker. They want to meet with you at least yearly to discuss your health and dialysis treatments. Attend it, this meeting is important for your care.

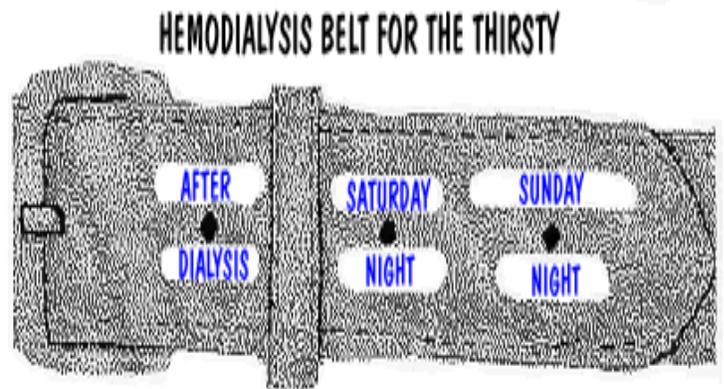
### Advanced Arrangements

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.

### Humor



Lori Jones-Hartwell