



# *SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER*

## *MAY 2018*

### **RMS Healthcare Survey**

By now most of you should have been contacted by our survey team at RMS healthcare. The surveys will be taking place over the next couple weeks. Please be sure to participate and give your honest feedback about your dialysis experience.

### **If You Must Miss A Treatment**

Missing treatments statistically shortens life expectancy, please do your best to never miss treatment. However, if you must miss, check to see if there is a makeup session available later in the day or the next day. Going several days without dialysis significantly increases chances of stroke or heart attack. Do your best to make your treatments, and remember if you can't make it, then re-schedule.

### **Renal Support Network**

HOPEline Peer Support Phone Line

(800) 579-1970

Log onto [www.rsnhope.org](http://www.rsnhope.org) for events, online support and coffee chats for dialysis patients. Don't suffer through this alone, reach out and connect.

### **Caregivers of Persons with Stroke/Dementia/Parkinsons/TBI**

If you are a family member who cares for someone with a brain disease, there is help available. The Inland Caregiver Resource Center (800) 675-6694 provides support, respite, resources and education. They have conferences for caregivers and can provide someone to come and stay while you get away for a bit. Contact them today to get help.

### **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.  
You can work and receive social security at the same time!

### **Update Your Phone Number and Address**

Please keep your dialysis center updated with new phone numbers and addresses. Also if there are any changes in your emergency contacts or their phone numbers. We have repeatedly had difficulty reaching people who have not given update information. This is important in the event of chair time/schedule changes, emergency events, transportation, and transplant requests.

### **Travelling 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 setup all necessary arrangements.





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### **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](http://www.aidandattendance.org) for more information.

#### **Work While Disabled, Keep Your Benefits**

Social Security's work incentives and *Ticket to Work programs* can help you if you are interested in working. Special rules now allow you to work temporarily without losing your monthly Social Security disability or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. **A nine month trial period allows you to test**

**your ability to work without any risks to your benefits. You can get full disability payments during this period no matter how much you earn.**

After this nine-month trial period, you can work an additional three years risk free and still receive benefits for any month in which your earnings do not exceed certain limits:

- \$1,970 for blind individuals; or
- \$1,180 if you are not blind.

Additional incentives to help you succeed back in the work force include:

- Continued Medicare and Medical benefits while you are working
- Help with education, training and rehabilitation to start a new line of work.

For more information you can call toll free 1-800-772-1213 or visit their website at

[www.socialsecurity.gov/work](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work).

### **Humor**

www.petecarefoundation.com • helping children on dialysis • donations gratefully accepted



Okay! On the count of three, it's out with all the needles.