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Hot Topics

International Survey Shows Most Patients Will Suffer if They Go a Week Without Medications

A survey conducted in 13 countries shows significant concern among patients about losing access to prescription medication during disasters. The majority of patients surveyed (54%) indicated they would experience significant adverse effects after a month or more without their regular medication and/or medical equipment; forty-two percent indicated that they would experience negative effects within one week. The survey was conducted by KCER's community partner, Healthcare Ready.



Read More: <https://bit.ly/2lfNHRb>

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Report: High-Tide Flooding Has Doubled in 30 Years

A recent report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows that people who live along the U.S. coastline, especially along the Atlantic coast in the southeast, have seen high-tide flooding double in the last 30 years. The rate of flooding is likely to continue increasing due to rising sea levels and an increase in extreme weather events.



Read More: <https://wxch.nl/2lgsuqk>

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Americans Fear Natural Disasters More than Terrorist Attacks, Global Pandemics, or Cyber-Attacks Combined



A new survey shows Americans fear disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and wildfires more than any other catastrophic event. America's concern about natural disasters exceeds worry about terrorist attacks, cyber-attacks, environmental emergencies, or disease outbreaks. Findings also indicate that 53 percent of Americans do not have any emergency preparation plans in place, even though 42 percent are concerned about an emergency happening. The survey was conducted by YouGov, a research firm contracted by Healthcare Ready.

Read More: <https://bit.ly/2t54wls>

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Education/Communication

CMS Emergency Preparedness Final Rule Frequently Asked Question Under *Training and Testing*

Q: Regarding fulfilling the testing needs: Do we indeed to conduct two tests a year? And minimally one of them needs to be a community-based test? If an emergency presents itself between November 15, 2017 and December 31, 2017, would that satisfy one testing need? Would that be the community-based need? And would that cover us for the period until November 15, 2018 or until the end of the calendar year 2017?

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Rule, dialysis facilities are required to participate in a full-scale exercise that is community-based or, when a community-based exercise is not accessible, conduct an additional exercise that may include a second full-scale community- or facility-based exercise or a tabletop exercise (as described in the regulations.) **So yes, a facility is required to conduct two tests annually.** If the facility experienced an emergency and had to activate its emergency plan during the year, that would satisfy one of the annual testing requirements and would exempt the facility from engaging in a community or facility-based exercise for one year following the date of the actual emergency event. The "annual" testing requirement is not measured on a calendar year basis; it is measured from the date of the last actual emergency event or the date the exercise/testing took place.

To read more responses to frequently asked questions regarding the Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers, click on the link below.

Read More: <https://go.cms.gov/2jkGS1N>

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Make an Emergency Preparedness Plan That Includes Your Pets

As you start to make an emergency preparedness plan for your family, don't forget to include your special family members, whether they are four-legged, two-legged, or no-legged, in that plan. Celebrate National Pet Preparedness Month (June) by making your pet emergency preparedness plan a priority.



Read More: <https://bit.ly/1VXkEQn>

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Preparation Tips for Power Outages

Most power outages are over quickly, but some can last hours, even days. During a power outage you may be left without air conditioning, lights, hot, or even running, water. You may not even have a way to monitor the local news. Learn how you can take steps now to lessen the impact of a power outage by preparing in advance!

Read More: <https://bit.ly/2dh8lzC>

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You can find this month's KCER Watch, along with past editions, on our website:
www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch

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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KCERJune2018>



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