



KCER Watch

Safety and Health Topics: Emergency Preparedness Bulletin

September 2016

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Hot Topics

Kidney Community Emergency Response Website Has a New Look

The Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) Coalition is pleased to announce that its new website is up and running. The KCER website (www.KCERCoalition.com) provides access to the most comprehensive emergency resources for individuals affected by kidney disease, including patients, family members, caregivers, and professionals.

In addition to resource materials, the KCER website features helpful emergency hot lines, weather alerts, a dialysis facility locator, and much more.

Visit the new KCER website at www.KCERCoalition.com.



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September is National Emergency Preparedness Month

It's good time to remember how important it is to be prepared year round for a natural disaster or major emergency. Being prepared for a disruptive event is important for everyone, but can be life saving for people who have a chronic illness, like kidney disease. Federal agencies like [FEMA](#), the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) have tools you can use to prepare you and your family for the next natural disaster.

Learn More: <https://goo.gl/OD9pL8>

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CDC Awards Additional Money to Fight Zika

The CDC has awarded an additional \$2.4 million to some cosmopolitan areas to fight the Zika virus. Chicago, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles County have been provided these additional funds in order to establish, enhance, and maintain information-gathering systems to rapidly detect Zika-related disorders.

Recently, \$16.4 million was awarded to all states and territories for surveillance of microcephaly and other serious outcomes. The additional funds will enable these local areas to participate in these important activities in coordination with state efforts.

Read More: <https://goo.gl/m3Ts4Q>

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Education/Communication



Many Americans Concerned About Evacuating Elderly During Natural Disasters

A new poll reveals 30% of American do not feel comfortable that their elderly relatives will be safely evacuated during a natural disaster. The poll also found that only one in four Americans have discussed emergency plans with their loved ones. Additionally, polling shows that Americans fear natural disasters more than terrorism, global pandemic, or cyber-attacks combined.

Learn More: <https://goo.gl/nlmKCw>

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Helping Your Patients Replace Medical Equipment or Supplies Lost or Damaged in a Disaster or Emergency

If your facility is in an area that's been declared an emergency or disaster, the normal rules for your patients to get assistance from Medicare for their medical needs may be changed to expedite getting them the help they need.

Affected areas are where one of the following has happened:

- The President has declared it an emergency or disaster.
- A governor has declared it an emergency or disaster.
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) has declared a public health emergency.

Read More: <https://goo.gl/D0kLOk>

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Emergency Power Systems a Must for Nursing Homes Under CMS Final Rule

Long-term care providers are now required to meet four specific industry best practices for emergency preparedness under a final emergency preparedness rule released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The rule is aimed at increasing patient safety and improving response coordination during both natural and man-made disasters. The rule addresses issues that have been “on the national agenda” in the wake of disasters such as Hurricane Sandy, the 2009 Swine Flu pandemic and, most recently, flooding in Louisiana.

Read More: <https://goo.gl/9RLNUP>

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To Prepare for A Natural Disaster, Why Not Host a Party?!

For some people, preparing for a disaster is just like preparing for a biology exam—it’s just not fun, so they don’t do it! Well, why not bring a little excitement to the preparation? Hosting a preparedness party is a great way to empower your facility, yourself, and your patients and their families with knowledge, skills, and relationships that can help everyone be more resilient in the face of disasters and emergencies.

The American Red Cross has tools you can use to host your first preparedness party.



Read More: <https://goo.gl/DujRTI>

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You can find this month’s KCER Watch and past editions on our website:

www.kcercoalition.com/KCERWatch

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