



Emergency Preparedness E-newsletter

Below are several resources to help prepare you and your patients for an emergency and to help support the care of your dialysis patients during and after an emergency.

Reminder: If your facility experiences any issue impacting facility operations, please go to our website www.midwestkidneynetwork.org and click "Facility Closure Form" at the top of the page to report the incident. All interruptions in service, regardless of the cause or length of interruption, should be reported both ESRD Network 11 and [your state survey agency](#).



Midwest Kidney Network provides resources for both patients and providers. In addition to providing 1:1 technical assistance, we have 3 webpages dedicated to different areas of emergencies:

- [Emergency Preparedness](#)
- [Planning](#)
- [Contacts](#)



The **Forum of ESRD Networks** developed the [Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit](#) to support Medical Directors in a dialysis facility. The toolkit includes a complete chapter on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness (pages 68-71) and a downloadable checklist of the Interpretative Guidance E-Codes for ESRD facilities.

The **Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER)** Program, under contract with CMS, provides technical assistance to ESRD Networks, kidney organizations, and other groups to ensure timely and efficient disaster preparedness, response, and recovery for the kidney community. The KCER website has a wealth of both patient and professional resources to assist with emergency preparedness. <https://www.kcercoalition.com/>



Preparedness Starts at Home and it begins with a simple conversation. While discussing potential emergencies can feel scary, these conversations are the foundation of family safety and readiness. Build your preparedness at your own pace:



- Choose a time when everyone is calm and relaxed for more effective discussions
- Share the steps you've already taken to prepare and invite questions
- Consider spreading discussions over multiple sessions to create a comfortable environment
- Use this time to create an Emergency Supply List using resources available in [English and Additional Languages](#)

CMS Resources:

Review the CMS [Appendix Z](#) Emergency Preparedness Requirements to ensure your facility meets CMS requirements including annual trainings and emergency contact information.

The CMS Emergency Response webpage also offers several resources: <https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/what-we-do/emergency-response>



Health Coverage in Emergencies: What You Need to Know

Medicare

- **Original Medicare:** Visit any doctor or hospital that accepts Medicare, even outside your area
- **Medicare Advantage Plans:** Contact your plan about accessing out-of-network providers during emergencies

Prescription Medications: Your Medicare drug plan can help with:

- Finding nearby in-network pharmacies
- Replacing lost or damaged medications
- Accessing out-of-network pharmacies when necessary
- Obtaining 60-90 day supplies for extended situations



Specialized Services:

- **Dialysis:** Contact your [ESRD Network](#)
- **Cancer Treatment:** Call National Cancer Institute at 1-800-4-CANCER
- **Medical Equipment:** Medicare may cover repair/replacement of damaged equipment through approved suppliers

Medicaid Coverage

- Each state Medicaid and CHIP program has its own provider network. [Contact your state for a list of providers.](#)

Marketplace Plans

- **Check Coverage:** Understand how your plan responds to emergency situations
- **Understand Eligibility:** Be aware of any changes during emergencies
- **Emergency Enrollment:** Learn about special enrollment periods for plan changes

Contact Information

- **General Medicare Questions:** 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
- **TTY Users:** 1-877-486-2048
- [Medicare.gov](#)
- [Medicaid.gov](#)
- [Healthcare.gov](#)

Additional Resources

For detailed guidance, visit:

- [Getting Care in a Disaster or Emergency](#)
- [Getting Care & Drugs in a Disaster or Emergency Fact Sheet](#)
- [CMS Emergency Preparedness and Response Operations](#)
- [Preparedness and Response Toolkit for State Medicaid and CHIP Agencies in the Event of a Public Health Emergency or Disaster](#)
- [Marketplace: Getting Emergency Care](#)

