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TRACIE  
HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
INFORMATION GATEWAY

# Healthcare System Preparedness Considerations Speaker Series

April 2021

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Access Ms. Scott's bio here:

<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/healthcare-system-preparedness-considerations-speaker-series-dialysis-speaker-bio.pdf>

## Special Needs Population Readiness: Dialysis Preparedness and Response



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HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
INFORMATION GATEWAY

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# Objectives

- Share recent natural disaster event preparedness
- Share chronic dialysis patient resources
- Discuss special considerations, supplies, staffing, and workflow during the disaster
- Describe how collaborating within your facility can improve workflow
- Describe transient transfers and admissions of dialysis inpatients from other hospitals

# Introduction

- Texas ESRD population is the largest in the U.S. and has 71,996 total patients according to 2019 ESRD Network Annual Report.
- The incidence of renal failure in the U.S. that progresses to dialysis or transplantation is among of the highest in the world.
- These are alarming statistics and including the fact that dialysis is a life sustaining therapy and can be fatal, increases the need for a focused approach to emergency preparedness and response for the dialysis community.

# Introduction, Continued

- The winter storm in February 2021 came with extreme winter temperatures, loss of electricity, no water, snow, and icy roads and interstates.
- Many dialysis providers and hospitals could not operate without the basic essentials to provide life sustaining dialysis therapies.
- The dialysis community relies on Emergency Response Teams, local dialysis clinics, and hospitals for support.

# Natural Disaster Winter Storm: North Cypress Dialysis Center Hemodialysis Patient Plan

- Assessed staff availability to work on alternate days during winter storm. Rescheduled M-W-F outpatients to S-W-F instead during the winter storm.
- Patients and staff were made aware of the emergency and disaster plans and were given our emergency contact numbers.
- All outpatients were dialyzed as planned with no hospitalization nor missed dialysis treatments due to storm.

# Natural Disaster Winter Storm: North Cypress Dialysis Peritoneal Dialysis Patient Plan

- All home peritoneal dialysis (PD) patients were educated on diet and fluid restriction.
- Patients were educated on a plan in the event of power failure.
- Confirmed all patients had access to a week or more worth of PD supplies.
- PD patients with power outages would perform manual peritoneal dialysis exchanges per nephrologist order.

# Dialysis Emergency Preparedness: Outpatient Instructions

- Stay at home unless injured or in need of emergency care.
- Begin 3 day “survival” diet. Limit high potassium foods such as fresh fruits or vegetables.
- Limited fluid intake to 2 cups per day.
- Contact your dialysis provider 1-toll free number for updates or back up dialysis facility information.
- REMINDER: Hospitals may not be equipped to provide maintenance dialysis.
- Don't forget to tell someone about your special needs.



# Dialysis Emergency Preparedness: Outpatient Instructions

Limit the sodium intake:

- Avoid table salt and salt substitutes which contain potassium.
- Season foods with herbal seasoning, garlic powder, and lemon juice.

# Natural Disaster Winter Storm Preparation

## Inpatient Dialysis:

- Assess your facility's dialysis readiness for the storm.
- Gather information from senior leadership and/or your Safety Officer on expected duration, intensity, and impact to your facility.
- Assess inpatient dialysis census and pending discharges.

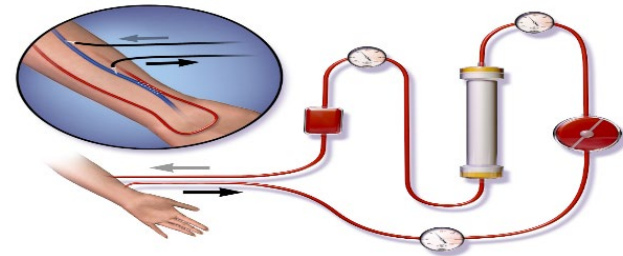


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# Natural Disaster Winter Storm Preparation: Supplies

## Inpatient Dialysis

- Assess current essential dialysis supplies on hand at your facility and calculate the amount of supplies needed to sustain a minimum of 7-10 days of high census volume.
- Make a plan for supplies, dependent on projected duration of the event and patient census calculations. You can decrease or increase by 25% of your high census volume or work with your supply chain and equipment tech to assess your supply needs.



# Natural Disaster Winter Storm Preparation: Inpatient Dialysis Supplies

## Examples of Essential Dialysis Supplies

**Hemodialysis items include:** Acid Concentrate, Bicarb Solution, Dialyzers, Hemodialysis Bloodlines, Liter bags of NS and transducers.

**Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) items include:** PD Solutions (1.5%, 2.5% & 4.25%, 5Lbags) and Manual PD Solutions (2L bags of each of the above solutions).

PD Cycler Cassettes , Drain bags, extension sets and PD Caps.

The above list is not all inclusive and does not include equipment, test strips and test solutions.



# Natural Disaster Winter Storm Preparation: Inpatient Dialysis



## Assess staffing plan and communicate with A and B Teams

### A Team prepare to ride out storm through lockdown

- Dialysis team asked to bring 3 days of personal items, snacks, medication, and discuss meals and lodging accommodations.
- Discuss showering schedule and locations if assigned at the hospital. Communicate hotel assignments and check-in information with your team.
- During lockdown, provide daily huddles and updates as they occur. This will keep staff engaged and aware of the disaster and emergency game plan.
- Validate that all team members have updated emergency phone numbers.

# Natural Disaster Winter Storm Preparation: Inpatient Dialysis



- Request additional staffing as needed especially if accepting inpatient transfer admits or transient transfer inpatients.
- Stay in touch with B Team to ensure they will be ready and able to relieve A Team once lock down is lifted.
- Number of staff on A & B Teams will vary and depend on facility staffing and inpatient volumes.

# Natural Disaster Winter Storm Preparation: Inpatient Dialysis



- Staffing ratios of dialysis RN to patient ratios remain standard and assignments according to patient acuity level.
- Inpatient Dialysis unit 2 patients : 1 RN and isolation and/or ICU 1 patient : 1RN.
- Create a plan to rotate staff to have a designated shift to sleep as the dialysis surge can extend through the night.

# Natural Disaster Winter Storm Preparation: Collaboration



- Have an open line of communication with emergency department director prior to and during disaster in preparation for dialysis patients surge (due to local dialysis clinics closures).
- Plan to triage dialysis patients in the ED according to medical necessity and prioritize according to hospital protocol (stat, urgent, routine).
- Ensure hospital operator and registration team educated on a scripted response and have handouts to respond to inquires regarding dialysis.



# Natural Disaster Winter Storm Preparation: Collaboration



- Facility-to-facility transfers of inpatients—use the Administrative Director (AD) and Transfer Center to facilitate bed arrangements and ambulance transportation.
- Communication prior to transfer between directors to ensure appropriate level of care and maintain continuity of care.

# Natural Disaster Winter Storm Preparation: Collaboration

- Sending primary nurse and receiving dialysis nurse exchange hand-off report before and after transfer of patient.
- The transient dialysis inpatients continue dialysis 3 times per week as scheduled or as ordered by nephrologist, until their home hospital dialysis unit is functional.



# Natural Disaster Winter Storm Preparation: Collaboration



- Receiving director or dialysis charge nurse ensured transient patients transported with copies of medical records and obtained hemodialysis orders from the nephrologist.
- Utilize downtime dialysis flowsheet to document dialysis procedure as RN's helping out may not be trained on your facilities EMR.
- Case management team to assist the ER with the dialysis patient surge by providing information on transportation and resources so patient can locate open dialysis centers.

# Post Natural Disaster Winter Storm

- Review and adjust staffing plan to ensure adequate coverage for current inpatient volumes.
- Expect to be busy post storm due to increased inpatient census and assess essential dialysis supplies.
- Communicate with your dialysis team and show appreciation for a **Job Well Done** and celebrate your successes!

**CELEBRATE YOUR  
SUCCESSSES!**

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# Resource Contacts for Dialysis Patients

Weather updates: <https://www.weather.gov/hgx/>

- **To find a dialysis facility call these Dialysis Disaster numbers:**
- **Fresenius / FKC: 1.800.626.1297**
- **TEEC at 866-407-3773** (press 2 for Spanish) for assistance
- **DaVita: 800.400.8331**
- **DCI: 866.424.1990**
- **DCI Donor Hotline/Transient Patients: 800.969.4438**
- **ARA: 888.880.6867**
- **Satellite: 855-396-2212 - Option 3 (Texas)**
- **SAMHSA - Disaster Distress Helpline: 800.985.5990**
- **US Renal Care: 866.671.8772**
- **Veteran Disaster Relief Hotline: 800.507.4571**

# Resource Contacts for Dialysis Patients

## Additional resources for kidney patients in Texas affected by the Winter Storm

### Transportation:

- Local bus operations are available by appointment in many areas to transport patients to dialysis. Contact 2-1-1 to find out about availability in your area.

### How to find clean water:

- Houston locations: <https://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/find-bottled-water-boil-order-houston-galveston-15960915.php>

# Resource Contacts for Dialysis Patients

- Texas Health and Human Services: 2-1-1:  
<https://www.211texas.org/>
- Statewide Warming Center locator: <https://tdem.texas.gov/warm/>
- Salvation Army shelter locator:  
<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/plugins/gdosCenterSearch?start=1>
- Red Cross shelter locator: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter.html>

# Resource Contacts for Dialysis Patients

Phone numbers for dialysis patients in Texas to call

- **TEEC:** 866-407-3773
- **ESRD Network of Texas Patient Hotline:** 877-886-4435
- **Texas Health and Human Services:** 2-1-1
- **Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR):** 1-877-541-7905



# Additional Resources

- ASPR TRACIE Dialysis Centers Topic Collection: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/50/dialysis-centers/47>
- CDC Chronic CKD Surveillance System: <https://nccd.cdc.gov/ckd/>
- US Renal Data System 2019 Annual Data Report Disease in US: <https://www.usrds.org/annual-data-report/>
- Texas ESRD Emergency Coalition (TEEC): <https://www.texasteec.org>
- Kidney Community Emergency Response Coalitions (KCER): <https://www.kcercoalition.com>
- Network of Texas, Inc. (Network 14): [www.esrdnetwork14.org](http://www.esrdnetwork14.org)

# Moderator Q&A



# Contact ASPR TRACIE



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