



Emergency Preparedness E-newsletter

Recently, we have heard from surveyors that facilities are being cited for CMS [Appendix Z](#) Emergency Preparedness Requirements. This 'special edition' newsletter provides some guidance regarding survey requirements and resources to support emergency preparedness. The following reminders emerged from common trends noted in these emergency preparedness citations:

- Full-scale or tabletop exercises are **required annually**. All trainings for staff, education of patients, and testing of the emergency response should be based on the facility/community risk assessment.
- Write up and document ANY event where your emergency response plan was activated, for example in the event of change of clinic operations due to a winter storm or power outage. Activation of your emergency plan with completion of a debrief/after action report meets the requirement of an annual exercise.
- Dialysis facilities should have both a primary AND secondary emergency contact for dialysis facility staff.
- Facilities are strongly encouraged to have a designated backup facility with a signed agreement in place.

If your facility experiences an interruption in service, please contact DJ Johnson dj.johnson@midwestkidneynetwork.org at the Network to report the incident. All interruptions in service, regardless of the cause or length of interruption, should be reported both to the Network and [your state survey agency](#).

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.

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 **ESRD National Coordinating Center** has emergency management resources for patients on their website: <https://www.esrdncc.org/en/patients/> Education includes emergency disconnect from hemodialysis, planning for emergencies, and an emergency contact list.



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/>