

In Center Emergency Preparedness

The purpose of this handout is to prepare you for emergencies while you are undergoing dialysis treatment.

Severe weather- tornado, ice, snow, blizzard conditions affecting your appointment:

- Please call the dialysis unit immediately if weather or disaster will prevent you from coming to your scheduled dialysis treatment.
- We will make every effort to arrange for dialysis within 24 hours of a missed treatment, either in the dialysis unit or a center closer to your home.
- If you miss 2 consecutive dialysis sessions you must go to the local ER for a checkup.

Call 911 or go to the local emergency room for any of the following symptoms:

- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Blood pressure that doesn't respond to medication
- Blood pressure with a headache, nausea, or blurred vision

Evacuation due to severe weather/fire/escalating crisis while receiving dialysis treatment:

If you are on the unit, you will be alerted either by intercom system or by dialysis staff of the need to evacuate from the area.

Upon evacuating from the dialysis unit, the following will occur:

- You will have your arterial and venous access clamped and disconnected

from the hemodialysis machine with sterile syringes attached to the central line or fistula needles.

- Sheets on the chairs will be used to move you if dizziness or weakness occurs from blood loss.

If immediate evacuation is not necessary:

- Any of your blood in the extracorporeal tubing will be re-infused before disconnecting.
- Needles may or may not be left in place.
- Central lines may or may not be capped before evacuation.
- After you have been disconnected from your dialysis machine, go to the designated safe area below. Wait for directions from the person in charge. This person could be a dialysis facility staff member, or emergency personnel such as a paramedic, police officer, or firefighter. **DO NOT** remove your fistula needles or syringes from a catheter, wait for a medical staff member to assist.

Designated safe areas

- Tornado Warning: evacuate to Family Resource Center.
- Fire: horizontal or vertical relocation dependent upon the location of the fire.
 - Horizontal relocation: move to 10E or 10W.
 - Vertical relocation: move to level 8 using appropriate stairwell: 3, 8, or 9.
- Escalating Crisis - UMHS has an internal plan that all dialysis staff complete during a mandatory training.

Power failure

Michigan Medicine will switch to generator power. If you are on hemodialysis there may be a slight interruption in treatment. This could be from a machine alarm or possibly a rapid recovery of the treatment.

If generator power does not immediately restore power:

Dialysis staff will ensure your safety by assessing if your blood can be manually re-transfused and disconnected per protocol.

Business continuity plan

The Pediatric Dialysis Unit has partnerships with the Adult Unit at Michigan Medicine and Children’s Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. In the event we are unable to provide hemodialysis treatments on our unit, the Medical Director/ Nurse Supervisor would reach out to those locations to set up your treatments.

References:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Preparing for Emergencies: A Guide for People on Dialysis. Retrieved from <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/End-Stage-Renal-Disease/ESRDNetworkOrganizations/Downloads/EmergencyPreparednessforFacilities2.pdf>

Midwest Kidney Network. Emergency Preparedness for Dialysis Patients. Retrieved from http://midwestkidneynetwork.org/sites/default/files/patient_disaster_resource_brochure_2016.pdf

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