

Peritoneal Dialysis Emergency Preparedness

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

Power failure

In the event of a power failure while you are receiving peritoneal dialysis at home:

- As soon as you are aware of a possible power outage, please call the dialysis unit. If it is afterhours call the paging system (734-936-4000) to contact the pediatric nephrologist on-call.
- The nephrologist will assess the your condition and amount of time missed to decide whether the time missed is necessary to make up.
- The HomeChoice cyclor will pause therapy for up to 2 hours during a power outage. When power starts again, therapy will pick up where it left off.
 - After 2 hours of power outage, the cyclor will “forget” the prior therapy and will need to be re-primed.

Call 911 or go to Local Emergency Room for any of the following symptoms:

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

Ways to prepare for power outages:

- You can contact your water and power company ahead of time to register for special priority to restore your lost services. Keep their phone numbers up-to-date and easy to find.

- Keep an extra 5-7-day supply of peritoneal dialysis supplies at home including medications (antibiotics, heparin, etc.). Check expiration dates and replace as needed.

Natural Disaster

Disconnect yourself from dialysis therapy and find a safe location. Then, follow the steps above.

In-Center Evacuation Plan

If you are on the unit during an evacuation for an emergency, please follow staff to the designated safe area. 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.

Designated safe areas

- **Tornado Warning:** evacuate to the Family Resource Center.
- **Fire:** horizontal or vertical relocation dependent upon location of 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.

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