

## **The Role of the Network During an Emergency or Disaster Situation**

In preparation for an emergency ESRD Network #15 will:

- Encourage dialysis facilities to plan for emergency situations
- Provide technical assistance in the development of emergency plans
- Provide educational materials to the patient and provider community on topics related to emergency/disaster preparedness
- Develop an internal Network plan for preparedness and response, including arrangements with back up Networks if local operations are impaired

During an emergency response, and per HIPAA and CMS policy, ESRD Network #15:

- Disseminate central contact numbers for dialysis providers in the affected area, to assist patients and providers in coordinating the provision of dialysis services
- Post information regarding open and closed status of facilities on the [www.dialysisunits.com](http://www.dialysisunits.com) website
- Assist patients in contacting dialysis providers to arrange treatment
- Assist family members in locating displaced patients
- Assist treating facilities to obtain necessary information to care for patients
- Work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) or its contractor to maintain a database tracking system for patient whereabouts (dialysis centers and/or shelter locations)
- Host conference calls with CMS, providers, vendors, and other entities to coordinate care for the patients
- Implement arrangements with a back-up Network if the operations of Network #15's office are compromised

### **FACILITY COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE NETWORK DURING AN EMERGENCY OR DISASTER**

If your facility is not operational or is inaccessible during an emergency, please communicate this to the Network as soon as possible. This improves the ability of the Network to provide current information to assist patients, the renal community and emergency management personnel. Networks also are authorized to access the [www.dialysisunits.com](http://www.dialysisunits.com) website to enter updates to track facility status.

ESRD Network #15 can be reached via telephone at 303-831-8818, fax at 303-860-8392, and through our website: <http://www.esrdnet15.org/>. Patients may use our toll-free numbers 1-888-777-0105 or 1-800-783-8818. If ESRD Network #15 is affected by the disaster/emergency and is unable to provide assistance, you may contact the Forum of ESRD Networks office at 1-866-901- ESRD (1-866-901-3773) for assistance from another Network.