



# KCER Watch

**Safety and Health Topics: Emergency Preparedness Bulletin**

**October 2017**

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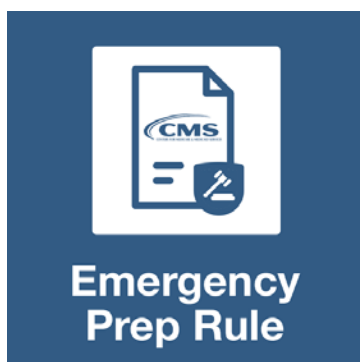
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## Hot Topics



### Emergency Preparedness Requirements Go into Effect Next Month

Natural disasters, severe weather, and even man-made threats are dangerous and can strike at a moment's notice. Dialysis patients and facilities face high risks. To help patients and facilities prepare for emergencies, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the final rule *Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers*. The regulation went into effect on November 16, 2016. Health care providers and suppliers must comply and implement all regulations by November 15, 2017.

**Read More:** <https://goo.gl/zeFeqM>

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### Flu Season is Here: Time for a Shot

Flu season is approaching. Like every year, there's something you can do about it: Get a flu shot.

A yearly flu vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting vaccinated by the end of October. Click the link to learn what you should know about the flu and flu season, courtesy of the CDC.



**Read More:** <https://goo.gl/yLtbbP>

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## How to Prepare for a Wildfire

Firefighters are slowly gaining control of the wildfires scorching California. The fires have killed more than two dozen people. Wildfires are unplanned, and can force you to leave your home with little notice. You have the best chance of surviving a wildfire by being ready to go and evacuating early.

**Read More:** <https://goo.gl/Aqdmuo>



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## Education/Communication

### Emotional Support After a Disaster



You survived the disaster, but many of things you care about did not. Disasters are upsetting experiences for everyone involved. It's common for people who have experienced a disaster to have strong emotional reactions. There are a number of steps you can take to build emotional well-being and gain a sense of control following a disaster.

**Read More:** <https://goo.gl/RFdemA>

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### Protecting Your Dialysis Vascular Access

Whether it's debris left over by a storm, flood waters, fire, or earthquake, as a dialysis patient you must do everything possible to protect your dialysis vascular access site during a disaster. The vascular access is your lifeline, and makes it possible for you to receive life-saving treatment. There are preventive steps you can take to protect yourself.

**Read More:** <https://goo.gl/Ux71zC>



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### Handwashing After a Disaster

Handwashing saves lives. Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Hand hygiene is especially important in an emergency like a flood, hurricane, or earthquake, but finding clean, safe running water can sometimes be difficult.

**Read More:** <https://goo.gl/tLNDyK>



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[www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch](http://www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch)

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