

**Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition
ESRD Network 5**

POSITION STATEMENT

on

***CONTACT INFORMATION FOR
DIALYSIS FACILITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS***

Section 405.2140 (d) of the Subpart U Regulations requires the providers of dialysis services establish written policies and procedures defining “the handling of emergencies which may threaten the health or safety of patients.” Specific emergency preparedness procedures should be in place to address disasters, including but not limited to fires, natural disasters, and functional failures in equipment within the facility. These plans should be “reviewed and tested at least annually and revised as necessary by, or under the direction of, the chief executive officer.”

The Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition (MARC), under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is required to perform a number of duties in the event of a disaster situation:

- The Network will track the availability of services and assist patients in identifying facilities that can provide services to them in an emergency.
- The Network will track and make available to the public the open and closed status of facilities in the affected area.
- The Network will provide information to family members and treating facilities on where a patient previously/currently is receiving services to assist in the location of individuals and the exchange of critical medical information.
- The Network will coordinate activities with providers, emergency workers, and other essential persons to ensure that the needs of individuals are being met and that patients have access to dialysis.

To facilitate the accomplishments of these tasks, CMS’s Emergency Preparedness Plan requires that all facilities providing dialysis services furnish the Network with “two ways to contact a Facility Disaster Coordinator” as well as “an individual who will serve as the Facility Disaster Coordinator Back-up in the event that the primary contact is unavailable during the disaster.” The Network requests the cooperation of all dialysis providers in providing the contact information of both of these individuals for use during emergency events.