

What If...No Transport?

Transportation service can be affected by weather and other extreme events. Common occurrences, such as snow, can make driving hazardous. Many private and public services will close until roads are safe again. You could be without regular transportation for a day or a week or longer. There are several things you can do to prepare for limited transportation services.

- ***Make sure your contact information is up to date.*** Include several different ways your clinic could get ahold of you (telephone, cell phone, email, and emergency numbers). Also be sure your street address is correct. If the clinic needs to send someone for you, you will want them looking for you in the right place!
- ***Have a plan for backup transportation.*** Ultimately, patients are responsible for their own transportation. Your clinic will work to try to assist you, but local resources may not be available. Dialysis staff are discouraged from transporting patients in their own private vehicles. Your family, friends, neighbors, or local community services could be a good backup. Talk with them ahead of time about your need for help if transportation is down. During times of disaster, citizens often reach out to help each other.
- ***Contact your clinic to find out the plan for dialysis treatment.*** After severe storms, there could be damage to the building. It is not uncommon for dialysis clinics to hire buses to transport staff and patients together to clinics out of town while repairs are made.
- ***Do not call 9-1-1 unless it is an emergency.*** Ambulances and fire departments will not transport patients for regular dialysis. Do not plan to use hospitals as backup for regular dialysis. You should work with your clinic to get regular treatments.
- ***If earlier treatment is offered, DO IT!*** Many emergency events are weather related and known ahead of time. Clinics often plan for these by offering extra treatment before the storm. Make every effort to get that extra treatment!

