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## GOALS & ACTIVITIES

- Continuously improving plans by learning from past responses;
- Building lasting partnerships to advance national goals;
- Keeping up with changing national procedures; and
- Urging policymakers to integrate the special needs of the kidney community into disaster planning.

Additionally, the KCER Coalition conducts mock disaster drills and exercises that serve as training tools and opportunities for continuous quality improvement.

Information on the KCER's current activities can be found on the website, [www.KCERcoalition.com](http://www.KCERcoalition.com)

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## MEMBERSHIP

The KCER Coalition membership is open to anyone. The Coalition currently has eight Response Teams to work on individual parts of the overall plan and a Strategic Planning Committee to develop a comprehensive framework for kidney community emergency planning and response.

To join the Coalition, visit our website, [www.KCERcoalition.com](http://www.KCERcoalition.com), and download a contact card. Or email [kcer@nw7.esrd.net](mailto:kcer@nw7.esrd.net).

Patients in need of assistance should first contact their dialysis or transplant provider, their local emergency management office, or their local ESRD Network.

In the event that a crisis requires assistance outside of an ESRD Network's capability, KCER resources are available, including: a toll-free information line for key responders; kidney community conference calls during an emergency; an emergency listserv; a system for communicating facility open/closed status; and coordination of staff/volunteers. KCER hosts a kidney community toll-free emergency hotline for patients/providers at 888-33KIDNEY.

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For more information  
or to get involved with the KCER Coalition, visit:

[www.KCERcoalition.com](http://www.KCERcoalition.com)

FMQAI: The Florida ESRD Network (Network 7),  
under contract with CMS,  
serves as the lead for administrative support of KCER.

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# Kidney Community Emergency Response (K CER) Coalition



# KCER COALITION

An emergency or disaster is an event that can result in significant harm to lives and/or property, as well as disruption in normal patterns of living. Emergency management officials create response mechanisms and guidelines to manage such events. But for the kidney community, emergencies and disasters can be the difference between life and death. Dialysis and kidney transplant patients must take special preparedness measures to ensure their own health and safety during and after disasters.

Over the past twenty years, on average, a federal disaster has been declared every week. These disasters vary from ice storms, flooding, earthquakes, and hurricanes to hazardous materials accidents and terrorist attacks. Life can be disrupted for one small community or an entire nation can be impacted.

## MISSION

Collaboratively develop, disseminate, implement and maintain a coordinated preparedness and response framework for the kidney community in the event of any type of emergency or disaster.

## HISTORY

The first National Disaster Summit for the kidney community was held in Washington, D.C. in January 2006. During the Summit, the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) Coalition was formed in an effort to minimize disruption to life-sustaining dialysis and transplant services. The KCER is comprised of partners from the entire kidney community, representing: patient and professional organizations; practitioners serving the patient with kidney failure, such as nurses, technicians, dietitians, social workers, and physicians; providers, including independent dialysis facilities, large dialysis organizations and transplant facilities; hospitals; suppliers; ESRD Networks; state emergency and survey representatives; and federal agencies, including the FDA, CDC, NIH as well as CMS. The 2007 Summit was held on March 1 in Baltimore, Maryland. The KCER continues to hold annual Summit meetings to promote emergency preparedness in the kidney community.

## VISION

KCER is the leading authority on emergency preparedness and response for the kidney community by providing organization and guidance that seamlessly bridges emergency management stakeholders and the ESRD community nationwide.

## RESPONSE TEAMS

- **Patient Assistance:** *Educate patients on preparedness, resources and financial aid*
- **Communication:** *During emergencies: toll-free helpline / email listserv / conference calls*
- **Facility and Patient Tracking:** *Track displaced patients and report on facility open / closed status*
- **Federal Response:** *Educate federal agencies and state partners / direct federal resources during a disaster response*
- **Facility Operations:** *Assist facilities with preparedness / response*
- **Sub-Team, Supplies and Services:** *Assist with plan for emergency distribution of supplies for dialysis / transplant care*
- **Coordination of Staff and Volunteers:** *Maintain database of emergency / disaster volunteers and educate on deployment*
- **Physician Placement and Assistance:** *Nephrology expertise for management of dialysis / transplant patients during a large-scale crisis and the exploration of tools needed to assist physicians whose practices have been disrupted by a disaster*
- **Pandemic Preparedness:** *Collaborate with federal / state agencies to continue services in the event of a major pandemic*