

SHARING HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PRACTICES

The Forum of ESRD Networks has defined a **Highly Effective Practice** as:
A procedure or set of processes that has been shown by research and/or experience to produce optimal results and that is established or proposed a practice suitable for widespread adoption.

Title/Name of Project: Network Emergency Public Portal
Area of Interest: Emergency/Disaster Planning
Name of Organization/Contact: Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ – Executive Director
Alliant Health Solutions - ESRD Network 14
Dallas, TX

DESCRIPTION & OUTCOMES: The ESRD Network 14 emergency public portal is a source of information for emergency preparedness. This site provides resources and contacts to assist healthcare providers and patients in the event of an emergency or disaster. The portal is accessible to anyone with a smartphone or computer via a QR code and URL link. This portal was established after Hurricane Laura at the recommendation of the Texas ESRD Emergency Coalition (TEEC). The state OEMs, hospitals, and emergency services utilize the portal to assist patients in finding dialysis providers as well as transportation and other resources during a disaster. CMS recognized and included the link in the February 22, 2022, *CMS News* during winter storm Uri. The day the news release was sent out, the portal had over 9,000 views. The portal makes it easy for both patients and providers to obtain contacts for all the dialysis providers to secure treatment times as well as other state and local assistance. Even the Red Cross has used the portal!

EXPLAIN WHY THE PROJECT/ACTIVITY IS A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: The Network emergency portal is not just a great idea but has proven its utilization within the region, sharing information rapidly during disaster events. The number of downloads and use by the community demonstrate that it is perceived as beneficial. All Networks and LDOs have websites so this could be built and implemented in any region. This is a wonderful idea with real-world experience and recognition by CMS.

WERE ANY FORUM/NETWORK TOOLS/INTERVENTIONS USED? No

This Highly Effective Practice was received by the Forum on October 11, 2022, and approved by the Forum's Sharing Highly Effective Practices Review Committee on May 16, 2023.