 COVID-19

An End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) National Coordinating Center (NCC) Patient Education Webinar

August 11, 2020
Agenda

• What is this call about?
• Today’s speakers
  ▪ Lisa Hall, MSW, LICSW
    − Patient Services Director
    − Comagine Health, ESRD Network 16
• Topic: Health and Safety at Work During the COVID-19 Pandemic
• Questions and answers (Q&As) from chat and Q&A panels
What Is This Call About?

- Hear experts who share tips for coping in a COVID-19 environment.
- Provide real-world experiences for others to put into use.
- Engage in calls on varying topics.
Lisa Hall, MSW, LICSW
Patient Services Director
Comagine Health ESRD Network 16
Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) During COVID-19

Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW
Comagine Health, ESRD Network 16

Network 16 | 18 COVID-19 HELPLINE
1.800.368.5804
You Can Be on Dialysis

And work on your life and rehab goals:

- Employment
- Education
- Treatment Modality
- Transplant
For Those Who Are Already Working

• You can keep your job when you need dialysis.
  ✓ You will earn more than disability pays.

• If you need help with accommodations to help keep your job, VR can help reduce or eliminate workplace barriers to perform essential job functions.

  ✓ Modify the job.       ✓ Modify a facility.
  ✓ Modify a policy.      ✓ Modify or design a product or equipment.
What About Going to a Workplace During the COVID-19 Pandemic?

• Dialysis patients are at higher risk of having serious complications from COVID-19.
  ✓ Take your temperature before work.
  ✓ Wear a face mask at all times.
  ✓ Practice social distancing in the workplace.
  ✓ Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or rub hands all over with gel that has at least 60% alcohol until dry.
  ✓ Clean surfaces with detergent followed by using household disinfectant daily on high touch surfaces (tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks).
  ✓ Do not share headsets or objects used near face.
  ✓ Do not congregate in the break room or other crowded places.
OSHA Guidance

• Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) has developed guidance for those at increased risk of exposure in the course of their job duties, broken down by exposure risk level https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/hazardrecognition.html#risk_classification.

• Employers are required to assess occupational hazards.  
  ✓ Ask your employer about the level of risk at your place of work.

• Some examples are provided in the next few slides.
OSHA—Lower Exposure Risk

• Minimal occupational contact with the public or other coworkers, such as:
  ✓ Remote workers (working from home)
  ✓ Office workers who have little close contact with others
  ✓ Healthcare workers providing telemedicine only
  ✓ Long-distance truck drivers
OSHA—Medium Exposure Risk

• Jobs that require frequent/close contact with people not known to have or suspected of having COVID-19
  
  ✔ Frequent contact with international travelers
  
  ✔ Contact with the general public, such as:
    ▪ Schools
    ▪ High-population density work environment
    ▪ High-volume retail settings
OSHA—High Exposure Risk

- Jobs with high potential for exposure to COVID-19:
  - Healthcare delivery and support staff who must enter patients’ rooms
  - Medical transport workers moving known or suspected COVID-19 patients
  - Mortuary workers involved in preparing bodies for burial or cremation (who were suspected of having COVID-19 at the time of death)
OSHA—Very High Exposure Risk

• Jobs with a very high potential for exposure during specific medical or lab procedures:
  ✓ Healthcare workers performing aerosol-generating procedures on known/suspected COVID-19 patients
  ✓ Healthcare/lab staff handling specimens from known/suspected COVID-19 patients
  ✓ Morgue workers performing autopsies on bodies of people known/suspected of having COVID-19 at the time of death
• Education and training
• Higher income
• Better insurance and health care access
• Greater independence
• Improved confidence

• More friends
• Happier and healthier
• Better quality of life
• More normal lifestyle
• Sense of purpose and identity
Steps You Can Take to Achieve Your Goals

• Ask for support from your dialysis staff.

• Are you on a work-friendly treatment option?
  ✓ Dialysis schedule
  ✓ Home treatment options

• Are there other barriers to pursuit of VR?
  ✓ Your dialysis staff can help with solutions.
Barriers and Solutions

• Health/energy
  ✓ Explore other treatment options such as home or nocturnal dialysis.
  ✓ Talk with your doctor about physical therapy.

• Depression
  ✓ Your social worker can offer support or referral.

• Afraid to lose benefits
  ✓ There are work incentives.
  ✓ Individual counseling is available to help you understand how work would impact your benefits.
Social Security Work Incentives

• Trial-work period

✓ Allows you to test your ability to work for at least 9 months, earn as much as you want, and keep your Social Security check.

✓ After the 9 months, if you are earning more than the substantial gainful activity (SGA) amount at $1260 per month, your Social Security checks will stop (the amount is higher at $2110 if you are legally blind).

• Impairment-related work expenses

✓ Certain items and services may be deducted from your wages before SGA is calculated, such as prescriptions, medical devices, and work-related transportation.
Work Incentives and Transplant

• Continued payment under VR or similar program
  ✓ Social security checks end 1-year post-transplant, and Medicare 3 years after.
  ✓ VR Social Security Work Incentives can extend these benefits well beyond the usual time frame after transplant, if you stay active with VR.

• For more information
  ✓ Social Security Disability Amendments of 1980, Section 301
  https://secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0414505010
How Do I Get Started?

• Search for a VR office, employment network, and virtual services (search by ZIP code): [https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp/](https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp/).

• No Internet? Call 866.968.7842.

• Keep your dialysis social worker informed on how your work with VR or the employment network is going.
  - The social worker can help with any barriers in the process
Some Virtual Employment Networks

- Career One Stop—Career, training, and job search resources [https://www.careeronestop.org/](https://www.careeronestop.org/)

- AAA Take Charge—Pays work related expense to help you stay employed or move toward a career goal [https://www.aaatakecharge.com/](https://www.aaatakecharge.com/)

- My Employment Options—Specializes in work at home, such as customer service, sales, healthcare, clerical, tech support [https://www.aaatakecharge.com/](https://www.aaatakecharge.com/)

- National Telecommuting Institute—Help with work-at-home jobs [https://www.nticentral.org/](https://www.nticentral.org/)
What Will VR Do?

- Evaluate your strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, and career interests.
- Help you get education or training you need to get a good job.
- Help you get the special equipment you need.
- Help you keep a job after you get one.
Nancy Became a Nurse
Michael Became a Social Worker
Gary Went to College to Remain in the Workforce
Questions?

Lisa Hall Lhall@comagine.org
Gary Moore
Peritoneal Dialysis Patient
ESRD Network 16
Lonnie Green
In-Center Hemodialysis Patient
ESRD Network 6
Let Us Hear From You

• Q&As from chat and Q&A panels
Visit the
www.TheKidneyHub.org

- Secure, mobile-friendly web tool for patients and professionals.
- Developed by the ESRD NCC with assistance from patient subject matter experts (SMEs).
- Links to important resources, such as:
  - COVID-19, infection prevention, transplant, home dialysis, and new ESRD patient education.
  - New features include access to the Patient Grant Library, an informative Understanding High-Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI) and Increased Risk Kidneys video, and more.
- Visit today and bookmark to your device’s home screen.
Future COVID-19 Webinar Events

- New webinar time and will last 1 hour.

Provider-focused event
August 18 at 3 p.m. ET
Continuing education unit (CEU) offered

Patient-focused event
August 25 at 4 p.m. ET

Visit www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com for information and to register.
Thank You!

NCCinfo@hsag.com
844.472.4250
813.865.3545
www.esrdncc.org

Additional COVID-19 resources for patients and providers:

www.thekidneyhub.org/covid19/
www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com