

COVID-19



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

August 11, 2020

Coronavirus Disease 2019 = COVID-19



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



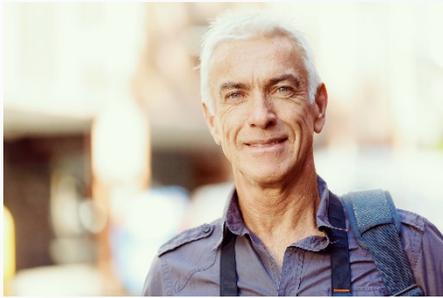
Network 16 | 18 COVID-19 HELPLINE

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?

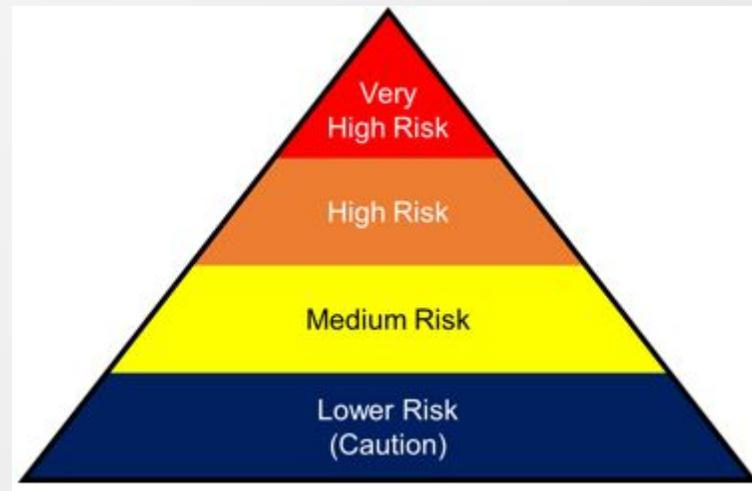
- Dialysis patients are at higher risk of having serious complications from COVID-19.
 - ✓ Take your temperature before work.
 - ✓ Wear a face mask at all times.
 - ✓ Practice social distancing in the workplace.
 - ✓ Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or rub hands all over with 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



Why VR?

- 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/>.
- 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/>
- AAA Take Charge—Pays work related expense to help you stay employed or move toward a career goal <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/>
- National Telecommuting Institute—Help with work-at-home jobs
<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

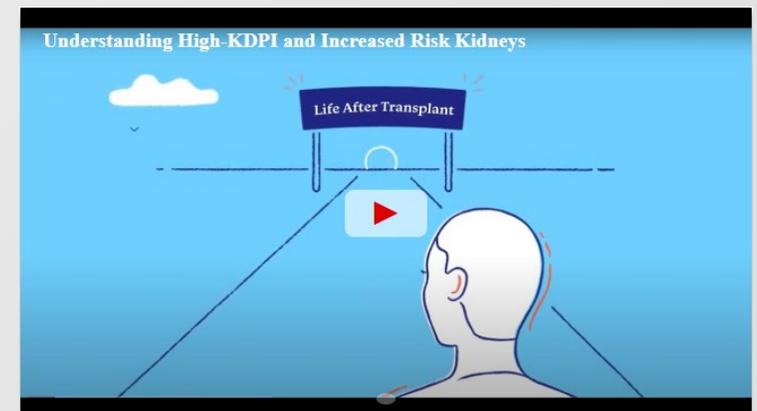
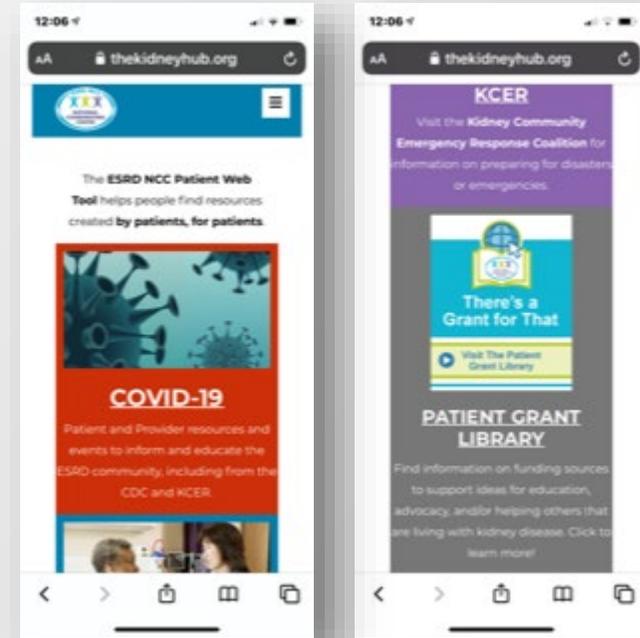


Let Us Hear From You

- 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:



<https://www.kcercoalition.com/en/covid-19/>



www.thekidneyhub.org/covid19/



www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com

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