DaVita Urges Dialysis Patients to Prepare for Winter Weather-Related Emergencies

DENVER--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 5, 2012-- DaVita Inc. (NYSE: DVA), a leading provider of kidney care services that is committed to improving the quality of life for those diagnosed with chronic kidney disease (CKD), today announced important emergency preparedness information for dialysis patients during the winter season. DaVita® is reminding patients and their families to prepare for weather-related emergencies by creating kits stocked with medication and emergency diet provisions.

“Kidney disease doesn’t take vacations or stop when winter weather hits,” said Richard Bruner, division vice president of DaVita and member of DaVita’s emergency response team, DaVERT. “Dialysis is a life-sustaining treatment and, because of that, encouraging our patients to adequately prepare for any kind of disaster is of high importance for DaVita.”

Dialysis patients require treatments at least three times per week and are at high risk during natural disasters and weather-related emergencies. DaVita recommends patients create an emergency kit that includes phone numbers for doctors and their dialysis center; three days’ worth of medications with a list of the dosage amounts; clean water, food, a can opener, first aid supplies, a battery-operated flashlight and radio; and, if diabetic, a week’s worth of related medical supplies.

For short-term emergencies such as snow and ice buildup, patients should follow their regular diet closely for one to two days; however, when a widespread emergency or disaster happens, patients are encouraged to immediately begin a three-day emergency diet to limit the amount of fluid and waste their body accumulates. DaVita also recommends that patients keep a copy of the diet with emergency supplies as a guide.

Visit DaVita.com to see the full three-day emergency diet and additional emergency preparedness information, including:

- Emergency preparedness for people with kidney disease
- Preparing for the unexpected with home dialysis
- Diabetes Emergency Plan

For additional questions, or for assistance during a weather-related event, call DaVita Guest Services at 1-800-400-8331.

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About DaVita

DaVita Inc., a Fortune 500® company, is a leading provider of kidney care in the United States, delivering dialysis services to patients with chronic kidney failure and end stage renal disease. DaVitastrives to improve patients’ quality of life by innovating clinical care, and by offering integrated treatment plans, personalized care teams and convenient health-management services. As ofSeptember 30, 2011, DaVita operated or provided administrative services at 1,777 dialysis facilities, serving approximately 138,000 patients. DaVita supports numerous programs dedicated to creating positive, sustainable change in communities around the world. The company’s leadership development initiatives and social responsibility efforts have been recognized by Fortune, Modern Healthcare, Newsweek and WorldBlu. For more information, please visit http://www.davita.com.

Source: DaVita Inc.

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