



STATE OF MARYLAND
DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Office of Health Care Quality

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Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein M.D., Secretary

TO: Administrators
Free Standing Kidney Dialysis Centers

FROM: Patricia Nay, M.D.
Acting Executive Director
Office of Health Care Quality

DATE: March 4, 2013

RE: Changes to Code of Maryland Regulations for Free
Standing Kidney Dialysis Centers

This transmittal describes the recent changes in the Freestanding Kidney Dialysis Centers, COMAR 10.05.04. Changes were made in three different areas and were effective February 18, 2013.

First, there were changes made to the patient care plan and patient long-term program. The terminology and time frames for the patient comprehensive assessment and patient plan of care was changed to match the federal regulations, 42CFR Subpart C §494.80 and .90.

Second, regulations were written to specify staffing ratios for in-center daytime hemodialysis versus in-center nocturnal hemodialysis. Regulations were also written regarding factors to consider when determining the patient's appropriateness for in-center nocturnal hemodialysis.

Third, a new section was added to the Freestanding Kidney Dialysis Centers for Emergency Management. Many of the regulations are a result of House Bill 658. Some of the new requirements include centers developing emergency plans, being financially obligated for any voluntary or mandated actions as the result of implementation of the emergency plan, providing the Office of Health Care Quality a 24/7 live operational contact phone number, and having information available regarding the status of a generator.

To obtain a new copy of the Freestanding Ambulatory Care Facilities, COMAR 10.05, please use one of the following sources:



- a. Visit the Division of State Documents website at <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/COMAROrderForm.pdf>
- b. Call the Division of State Documents at 410-974-2486 ext. 3876 or 800-633-6957 ext. 3876.
- c. Visit your local library. Click this link to find the closest location: www.dsd.state.md.us/Depositories.aspx

If you have any questions regarding this Transmittal, please contact Barbara Fagan at 410-402-8040 or Barbara.fagan@maryland.gov