

June 2010

DPC Patient Ambassador Action Items:
(Please complete by July 14, 2010)

Action Item Background

Elected officials play a tremendous role in the dialysis care patients receive, even though many lawmakers have never visited a facility. It is important to invite your Senators and Representatives into a facility so they can understand dialysis, meet the patients and caregivers, and learn about the treatment. Even if your Members of Congress have visited a facility before, if it has been a while since their last visit inviting them back gives them a great opportunity to be reminded of what dialysis entails.

Educating your elected officials about the issues important to dialysis patients is easy, and it makes a difference. Dialysis facility tours matter because:

- They teach lawmakers, who are making decisions about your care, what dialysis is and how it impacts patients and their families;
- They show lawmakers the important relationship between patients and their caregivers;
- They demonstrate the importance of quality care, and also the necessity of education, awareness and pre-dialysis services;
- They help lawmakers understand why adequate funding is so important. The federal government pays for dialysis for 70% of all patients and makes the rules about how much it will pay for treatments and medications

Action Item Instructions

This month we need you to start planning to host a tour for your Members of Congress to visit your dialysis center. The first step is to gather the contact information for the federal lawmakers who represent your facility. You can contact DPC toll-free at 1.866.877.4242 or visit our website at <http://www.dialysispatients.org/why-its-important-for-politicians-to-visit-dialysis-centers> if you need help doing so. You should then call their D.C. office and ask to speak to the scheduler to arrange a visit, talking points are enclosed to help guide you. They may request that you provide them with a written request. A sample document is enclosed. Next, you should contact DPC in order to prepare for their visit. Preparation is key because you want to be able to speak to you lawmakers about issues that are important to your dialysis care. Finally, after the lawmaker visits you should write him/her a thank you letter. A sample thank you letter is also enclosed.

If you would like further assistance, to set up a tour of your center for your Member of Congress, please contact Ben Wislinski. He can be contacted at bwislinski@dialysispatients.org or 1-866-877-4242.

Please don't forget to complete and return the Monthly Action Item Reporting Form to DPC by July 14, 2010. You may also complete this form online at www.dialysispatients.org/patient-ambassador-resource-page.