

May 2011

DPC Patient Ambassador Call to Action
(Please complete by June 18, 2011)

Call to Action #1 Background

According to the new schedule for the House of Representatives, your U.S. Representative will be spending much *more* time at home in your district this year than in the past. This presents an excellent opportunity for you to invite your Representative into your dialysis facility so he or she 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 then inviting them back offers a great opportunity to remind them about what dialysis entails. Educating your elected officials about the issues important to dialysis patients is easy, and it makes a difference.

Call to Action #1 Instructions: Invite your U.S. Representative to Visit Your Center

DPC would like you to start or continue planning to host a tour for your U.S. Representative to visit your dialysis center. The first step is to gather the contact information for the U.S. Representative of your facility. Let DPC know if you need assistance with that. You should then call their D.C. office and ask to speak to the scheduler to arrange a visit. The office may ask you to provide them with a written request. After you have made arrangements with the scheduler, you should contact DPC in order to prepare for your Member's visit. Finally, after the lawmaker visits you should write him/her a thank you letter. Sample scheduling talking points, a template written invitation and a template thank you letter were provided in last month's mailing. If you need extra copies or did not receive these, please let us know and we'll get them to you.

Call to Action #2 Background

In 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established a prevention collaborative among several dialysis facilities. The goal of the collaborative is to encourage providers to work together to prevent bloodstream infections (BSIs) among hemodialysis patients and to spur a broader interest in preventing infections among the dialysis community.

In order to decrease rates of BSIs among patients undergoing hemodialysis, the Dialysis Collaborative has developed a set of interventions for participating facilities to implement. The interventions include:

- hand hygiene audits,
- catheter care/vascular access observations,
- staff education and competency, catheter reduction, surveillance
- patient feedback,
- staff education and competency.

Call to Action #2 Instructions: Let DPC Know of Your Availability to Participate in the CDC's Focus Groups

To be successful in decreasing the rate of BSIs among hemodialysis patients, the CDC is asking for patient input by conducting focus groups of DPC Patient Ambassadors. Each focus group will include specific questions pertaining to catheter care, hygiene, etc, as well as an opportunity for you to ask questions and give feedback. Let DPC know if you are willing to participate in such a focus group as soon as possible.

Please don't forget to complete and return the Monthly Call to Action Reporting Form to DPC by **June 18, 2011**. You may also complete this form online at www.dialysispatients.org/patient-ambassador-resource-page.