Maine Medical Center
Transplant Program
Patient Notification in the Event of Closure of the Kidney Transplant Program

The Maine Transplant Program makes every effort to be available to provide care for its patients always. However, there may be reasons that the program must be temporarily or permanently closed. These reasons include:

1. No required physician or surgeon coverage
2. Environmental catastrophe or natural disaster
3. Loss of Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) accreditation

Lack of Required Physician or Surgeon
1. In the event the program is closed for a period of seven or more consecutive days because of lack of required physician or surgeon coverage, all Status 1 patients will be notified in writing via US mail. This notice will be mailed within seven days of program closure, and will contain the following:
   a. The reason for the closure.
   b. Anticipated date of program reopening.
   c. Notification that they cannot receive an organ offer through our program while it is closed.
   d. Options for transfer to alternate transplant programs.
   e. Offer of assistance in identifying designated transplant programs to which they can transfer.
   f. Implications of the decision not to transfer to an alternate transplant program.

2. Transfer of all active candidates or potential candidates hospitalized at our inactive program to an accepting transplant hospital will occur within seven days of inactivation of our transplant program unless transfer is deemed to be unsafe.
3. If the patient declines to be transferred to an alternate program, the reason will be documented in the electronic medical record.
4. A written summary of the Program Coverage Plan is provided to all patients at the time of listing or when there are any substantial changes in program or personnel and each potential transplant recipient will confirm receipt and understanding of such policy during the informed consent process.
5. Documentation of above written patient notifications will remain in patient electronic record.

Loss of CMS Accreditation
In the event CMS accreditation of the transplant program or transplant hospital is withdrawn, all candidates, potential candidates, recipients and live donors will be notified thirty days before accreditation is lost using the procedure described above. Again, assistance will be provided to facilitate transfer to an alternate program or hospital for care unless transfer to another transplant hospital is deemed unsafe. Medicare beneficiaries on the waiting list will be informed that Medicare will no longer pay for any transplant performed at the center after the effective date of the transplant center’s termination of approval.

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