

PATIENT CALENDAR OFFERS “EVERYDAY ENLIGHTENMENTS”

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Patient education in the dialysis unit is an on-going process. Our staff identified alternative educational strategies to reinforce what is covered in our formal patient education program, as well as a fun and creative way to disseminate new information. By consensus, we developed a calendar that had a full page of information each month. Staff was asked to volunteer, research, and create their page of the calendar. They enthusiastically joined and the months filled up quickly. Our 2009 calendar covers a spectrum of topics including:

Jan.	Emergency Meal Plan	July	Medication Reconciliation
Feb.	Heart Health	Aug.	Hand Washing/Infection Control
Mar.	Vascular Access	Sept.	Dialysis Diet Snapshot
April	Options	Oct.	Bones/Osteodystrophy
May	Exercise	Nov.	Advanced Directives
June	Anemia	Dec.	Disaster Prep/Emergency Kit

We incorporated color, easy to read fonts, pictures, etc. to make each page concise and eye catching as well as informative. We call our calendar “Everyday Enlightenments”. Another opportunity for education will be to post bulletin boards in patient areas with corresponding information related to the calendar each month throughout the year. Calendars will be printed, bound and given to each patient in December as their annual holiday gift. Each year it can be updated with new information and/or topics. This project was a collaborative effort from several members of the team, including RN’s, LPN’s, SW, RD, and Techs. The staff enthusiastically tackled developing this new strategy of learning as part of an ongoing quest to improve patient compliance.