

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 14, 2010



Advocates for Responsible Care

We will be their voice until their voices are heard.

Media Contact:

Dorothy Leone-Glasser
404-633-5843
678-778-3614

Majority of ARx's 33 Dialysis Patients will have a health home for one year

"We never lose hope. We have one year to have treatment but we must continue to work toward a life-long solution. We want to live." Baani, Dialysis patient

Atlanta, Georgia--- Since August 2009 ARx has fought for 33 Grady dialysis patients to receive long term dialysis care. The patients have endured unending stress from the fear of their life supporting treatments being cut. Over the year some patients have died and others have suffered serious complications of their End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD).

On Friday, September 10, 2010, an agreement was reached to continue dialysis treatment for 38 ESRD patients between Grady Hospital, Emory Health Care, Fresenius and DaVita. It has been reported that 13 randomly chosen patients will receive 'in kind' dialysis treatment through Emory, Fresenius and DaVita. The remaining 25 patients will receive dialysis treatment through a contract between Grady Hospital and Fresenius. Grady Hospital will charge 25 patients a monthly fee for their dialysis care. The new contract between Fresenius and Grady Hospital will be of one year duration.

ARx has not been privy to the agreements between Grady and the providers and was not involved in the selection or assignment of these 38 patients. At ARx's request, Commissioner Johnson has agreed to review the final written settlements. Under his direction, all parties will reconvene for a follow-up meeting to ensure all final terms are delineated and all patients and parties are clear as to their commitments.

ARx appreciates Commissioner Larry Johnson's leadership in reaching the agreement to provide a health home for 38 ESRD patients. We applaud the united efforts of Grady Hospital, Emory Health Care, Fresenius Dialysis Centers and DaVita Dialysis. We have taken the first step to finding a solution to care for the ESRD patient and provide ongoing dialysis. ARx is most concerned with the dilemma of 25 of the 38 patients receiving dialysis treatments for one year. We join Commissioner Johnson's plea for a permanent health home for all the patients. Therefore, it is our goal to continue this dialogue with the above parties to reach a more sustainable long term resolution. We employ the Commissioners of Fulton and DeKalb counties, the Dialysis providers, Grady and Emory Hospitals, the Georgia medical community and our Georgia elected officials to help us implement a model of care for all ESRD patients that will set a path for Medicaid eligibility and provide emergent legal status. We urgently ask for their support and cooperation to bring this model of care to our legislators to ease the burden of cost for the medical providers and ensure full patient access to ongoing, life- maintaining dialysis treatment.

ARx members and patients will participate in a prayer service, Sunday, September 19, 2010, at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, 118 Second Avenue, Decatur, Georgia 30030, at 10 AM. A meeting of the patients and staff of ARx will follow in Fellowship Hall at 11:30AM. Press and Media are invited. Please contact Dorothy and Rev. Nibs Stroupe at 404-378-6284.



www.advocatesforresponsiblecare.org

The Advocates for Responsible Care empowers individuals to achieve their maximum wellness with a strong voice as health care advocates, effectively reducing cultural incompetency and health care delivery disparity.