

Harris County Hospital District announces plan for Riverside Dialysis Center

HOUSTON – The Harris County Hospital District (HCHD) plans to open a dialysis center in the Riverside Health Clinic during January 2007. The clinic is being developed to meet a growing need within the hospital district to provide ongoing dialysis to the Houston community.

“Currently, we have 60 patients receiving chronic dialysis treatment, and nearly thirty more patients using our emergency centers for their regular dialysis needs,” says Robert Scholz, Administrator of District Services. “By building out the Riverside facility and equipping it with 24 dialysis stations, we can treat as many as 144 patients. That’s more than double our current capacity.”

At the same time, we are going to reduce our overall costs to treat dialysis patients by moving patients currently receiving treatment in our Emergency Centers to a more cost-effective form of treatment available through the Riverside Dialysis Center.”

The new Riverside Dialysis Center will begin construction in the fall and will offer state-of-the-art equipment and technology, with patient comfort in mind.

The Harris County Hospital District Board of Managers approved the facility’s lease from the City of Houston in October 2005.

“Dialysis treatment at the clinic level is a win-win situation,” says J. Evans Attwell, Chair of the Hospital District’s Board of Managers. “We’re not only going to reduce our per-treatment expense, but we’re going to expand and improve our service to patients. We want to thank The Metropolitan Organization for calling attention to the need for such service.”

Dialysis artificially removes waste from the blood in patients with kidney failure, and prevents debilitating and ultimately fatal buildup of blood wastes.

“Hospital District leadership and various community groups such as the Rotary Club have been assessing the need and formulating this plan for the past two years,” says David S. Lopez, HCHD President and CEO. “We are pleased that we will soon see the results of our planning and be able to provide this vital healthcare service to our community.”

During the construction process, HCHD will work closely with its patients and physician staff to ensure a seamless transition for its dialysis services.

“The expansion of dialysis care through this new center addresses a real need in our community,” Scholz says. “Residents in our area have needed more access to dialysis care, and this truly enhances our local healthcare delivery.”

HCHD has been providing health care to the Houston community since 1966, and has a total of three hospitals, 12 community health centers, seven school-based clinics, 13 homeless clinics and an adult dental center.

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