



October 10, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: CEOs, Member Hospitals

FROM: Cathy N. Grossi, Assistant Vice President, IHA
Will Lang, Executive Director, NKFI

SUBJECT: *KidneyMobile*® Screening Registration for 2008

2007 proved to be a great success as the inaugural year of the formal alliance between the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) and IHA member hospitals. Through *KidneyMobile*® screenings, 19 hospitals from across the state screened more than 1,100 individuals for kidney disease, diabetes and high blood pressure. As many as 41% of individuals screened needed immediate referrals for medical attention, highlighting the importance of this community outreach initiative.

The Illinois Hospital Association will receive NKFI's Gift of Life Award for its work collaborating with hospitals on the *KidneyMobile*® program at NKFI's Gift of Life Gala on Oct. 27. IHA is pleased to accept the award on behalf of Illinois hospitals for "outstanding effort and help in creating an environment of wellness and prevention in our hospitals and communities."

Due to its tremendous success, the program has been renewed for 2008. Registration is now available for your organization to participate in this community outreach program. The following offers background information, expectations, guidance and contact information for registration.

In 2005, NKFI launched the nation's first *KidneyMobile*®, a custom motor coach offering free education and screening services to Illinois communities. Their mission is to identify individuals needing treatment for diabetes, high blood pressure and kidney disease, as well as to raise greater awareness of complications of those diseases. The *KidneyMobile*® is also an excellent "vehicle" for engaging legislators and others in supporting kidney disease and prevention awareness.

More than 80 percent of participants test abnormal in one or more screening tests, learning they have problems for the first time. These statistics verify the fact that more than 60% of people who are diagnosed with kidney failure learn about it for the first time in the emergency room.

IHA encourages our members to participate in this unique community outreach opportunity. By doing so, your hospital will offer access to a critical community health service that showcases your organization as an active partner in prevention, education and treatment of kidney disease. *KidneyMobile*® screenings also offer a meaningful way to connect with area media and legislators in a health-related event at a relatively low investment.

KidneyMobile® Registration and Screening Guide

Please Note: NKFI recommends allowing at least 10 to 12 weeks to prepare and promote for an effective screening.

Generally, NKFI will furnish to IHA willing members, the *KidneyMobile®*, key NKFI staff and screening and educational material. They will also work with partnering hospitals on marketing and coordinating the event. Hospitals willing to host screenings will be asked to donate interior space for screening stations, and required medical support to process blood draws and manage physician referrals and consults. Events will be promoted through IHA & NKFI web site, newsletters and press releases. The NKFI will also work with partnering hospitals to identify the appropriate local officials and legislators to invite to each screening event, as well as issue a joint letter of invitation. NKFI is committed to working with each requesting hospital to meet each hospital's specific needs within NKFI's capabilities.

Registration:

- Please download and complete the IHA/NKFI Registration Form available from either www.kidneymobile.org or www.ihatoday.org. (Hard copy also available as attachment to this memo.)
- On the form, each organization must identify a key Community Relations contact for NKFI to initiate scheduling and coordinating the screening event. A Clinical Coordinator contact will also be requested to oversee the associated clinical coordination related to the screening and follow-up activity.
- In order to maximize efficiencies, the *KidneyMobile®* will be available in designated regions across the state at periodic times. Please consult the NKFI 2008 Calendar for corresponding timeframes and opportunities. Initially, each organization will be asked to identify three preferred dates. Confirmation will be determined by subsequent follow-up from NKFI with each requesting hospital.
- Submit completed forms via email or fax to NKFI c/o Lauren Zelechowski - email: Lzelechowski@nkfi.org or fax: 312/321-1505.
- Within 5 business days of receiving registration request, NKFI will contact the hospital to arrange an amenable time for a pre-event conference call.

Pre-Event Conference Calls:

- A pre-event conference call will be conducted by NKFI with each requesting hospital after receiving a completed registration form.
- Ideally, a 30-minute call will be scheduled within 2 to 3 weeks following receipt of registration request but no later than 8 weeks before preferred screening event date.
- The objective will be to mutually identify and address screening event and follow-up expectations and responsibilities.
- The call allows NKFI and the hospital to discuss marketing promotion, logistical issues and available screening resources, e.g. local community partners, number of volunteers, space and equipment needs for screening stations, lab processing, employee screening, etc.
- Key participants should at a minimum include the community relations and clinical coordination hospital contacts, with suggested others representing CEO, patient education, diabetic and kidney disease management, public relations, government affairs and volunteers.

Screening Day:

- NKFI's *KidneyMobile*® will arrive 90 minutes ahead of scheduled screening time to initiate event set-up.
- At least one nurse practitioner or health care professional from NKFI will be at all screenings to supervise the screening and lead the consultations.
- Hospital volunteers will arrive 30 minutes before the screening for on-site orientation and training by NKFI staff.
- Screening participants will register with on-site consent and questionnaire forms.
- Participants will visit screening stations where a member of NKFI staff or a qualified hospital volunteer will conduct blood pressure, blood glucose, body mass index testing, waist circumference, and urinalysis. If special arrangements are made with the hospital, participants will also have blood draws for lipid panel, hemoglobin, and creatinine lab work.
- Each screening participant will be invited aboard the *KidneyMobile*® for an educational tour and video.

Screening Follow-up:

- NKFI will provide immediate results to participants on all exams, except blood draws.
- Lab results should be faxed or emailed to NKFI within 48 hours of the screening.
- Blood draw results will be mailed by NKFI directly to screening participants with follow-up recommendations and referrals.
- Patients with abnormal results who need immediate attention by a nephrologist or primary care physician will be referred to sponsoring hospital list and receive a phone call from NKFI staff.
- Patients at risk for chronic kidney disease will receive additional information and a follow-up NKFI postcard to ensure they visit a physician and a list of referring physicians.
- NKFI will provide aggregate screening activity and outcome data to each participating hospital.
- An NKFI survey will be provided for each hospital to allow event evaluation and improvement feedback for future *KidneyMobile*® screenings.

For any questions or concerns related to the above, please contact either one of us directly:

Cathy Grossi (IHA) at 630/276-5707 or cgrossi@ihastaff.org

Lauren Zelechowski (NKFI) at 312/321-1500 or lzelechowski@nkfi.org



**National Kidney Foundation
of Illinois, Inc.**

