



The theme for World Kidney Day 2023 on 9th March is 'preparing for the unexpected, supporting the vulnerable'. Just last month we saw the devastating effects of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Crush injuries and dehydration can both increase the risk of kidney damage, so the need for dialysis becomes even more important at a time when dialysis facilities may be damaged or disrupted.

This week there is news of a Long Island health facility in the US sending medical equipment including dialysis kits to Turkey and Syria. The same facility also sent support to Ukraine over the last year (Source: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230303005386/en/>). Many countries in Europe and the UK are currently providing dialysis facilities to displaced Ukrainians. In the UK the 2 kidney charities have webpages that can be accessed by patients translated to a range of languages including Ukrainian.



Over the last few years, many of those with CKD across the world have faced unexpected events either in the form of natural disasters, war or the impacts of covid-19 which may have isolated some people who are more vulnerable due to reasons such as low income or isolation due to lack of family or carer support. It is important that any policies we set in our healthcare facilities consider how accessible our services are to ALL our patients. If we are running virtual clinics, is this accessible to all? What if someone doesn't have access to the internet or are poorly sighted? Equally how easy is it for our patients to get to clinics? Will the demands of work and the need for finances conflict with attending face to face clinic appointments at a time when the cost of living is climbing?

In the UK, charities such as Kidney Care UK are lobbying for the reimbursement of dialysis costs in this time of financial struggles (source: <https://www.kidneycareuk.org/news-and-campaigns/news/cost-of-living-action-on-your-dialysis-costs/>). It seems unfair that someone dialysing at home doesn't get funded for dialysis costs that would normally be covered if they were dialysing in a hospital.

EDTNA/ERCA are also looking to donate some of their published handbooks which we already have supplies of in our stores to countries in need.



This year one of our conference speakers in October 2023 in Vilnius will be Neerja Jain from the UK who will be talking about health equity.

All these initiatives have only been possible with good team working, sharing of work, forward planning and seeing things from a wider perspective. We are very fortunate in the kidney community to have clinicians, expert patients, charity groups, industry and managers all collaborating together.

