



## Event Summary: Roundtable Discussion on *Diseases and Disasters*

### Managing Cardiovascular Disease & End Stage Renal Disease

#### Event Overview and Aims

In an effort to increase disease-focused groups and community-facing organizations' engagement in preparedness initiatives and provide a forum to share their patient populations' unique needs and challenges with preparedness organizations, Healthcare Ready hosted a roundtable discussion on managing end stage renal disease and related kidney diseases during disasters. The event was designed to **serve as a listening and information gathering session** and **encourage partnerships and foster relationships**.

#### Discussion Themes and Takeways

- **Empowering Patients:** Providers should focus on incorporating preparedness education as an *essential component* of routine care, rather than an additional task. This includes encouraging patients and caregivers to contact their power company to be placed a priority restoration list and keeping a record of medication information available either on their phone or on paper, such as [Rx on the Run](#).
- **Potential of Technology:** Researching ways technology and mobile devices, such as smartphones, can be used to help address the unique needs of chronic disease should be prioritized within the public health preparedness community. For example, exploring how mobile devices could be leveraged to help responders and planners pre-identify patients with chronic disease needs.
- **Specialized Training for Responders:** It is important that first responders and shelter workers continue to receive specialized training on the needs of chronic disease patients *and* 'psychological first aid' since the trauma of events impacting care can be felt acutely by patients already challenged by managing a chronic disease.
- **Role of Partnerships:** Public-private partnerships can be leveraged to address health and medical needs of patients with chronic disease, such as coordinating transportation to healthcare facilities (for non-emergent cases), and should be encouraged.

