**Easing The Financial Burden On Kidney Patients**

(NAPSA)—Approximately 20 million Americans suffer from chronic kidney disease (CKD), a diagnosis that can be daunting without the proper information and support. Of this population, close to 500,000 have CKD Stage 5, the most serious form of this disease, which is a growing problem in the United States. Patients with CKD Stage 5 have the highest likelihood of people with kidney failure nearing or entering dialysis between 1990 and 2000, putting incredible pressure on the U.S. health care system.

Due to the complexity of CKD Stage 5, dialysis patients need additional health conditions, which may require patients to take up to 11 medications a day.

For example, many dialysis patients develop a common condition called secondary hyperparathyroidism, caused by a deficiency in vitamin D. Patients with this condition may become osteopenic or osteoporotic, and experience pain in the joints, bones, and muscles as well as bone disease and death.

Besides the obvious mental and physical pressures these stressful circumstances bring upon patients, the financial burden can often be overwhelming.

With the annual cost of treating kidney failure in the United States already around $30 billion, the financial impact the disease has upon society will only continue to intensify. Most people who suffer from CKD rely on Medicare to help pay for treatments.

Unfortunately, new reports show that almost half of the individuals who were enrolled in Medicare’s prescription drug plan in 2006 were impacted by the Medicare prescription drug gap, known as the “doughnut hole.”

This is a period of time when beneficiaries have reached the initial coverage limit and become responsible for the total costs of all their medications.

Of course, taking an essential drug, such as a phosphate binder, is a lifetime commitment and can get very expensive, making it difficult to afford.

To help patients get access to FOSRENOL (a non-calcium phosphate binder), Shire Pharmaceuticals, a leader in kidney care, is adding a new Medicare Part D component to its existing FOSRENOL at hand patient Assistance Program.

With this addition, qualifying patients enrolled in a Medicare Part D program who cannot afford their co-payments or co-insurance, along with those facing the Medicare Part D “doughnut hole,” may now receive FOSRENOL free of charge.

The original at hand patient assistance offering is designed to help individuals who have no coverage for FOSRENOL under prescription drug benefits, Medicare, Medicaid or other state-funded programs by providing the treatment free of charge or at a shared (reduced) cost.

Patients and health care providers can find out more about the program by calling the 1-888 toll-free hotline at (866) 322-8233. Representatives are available to answer questions and help enroll patients from Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EDT).

For more information about CKD Stage 5, the FOSRENOL at hand Patient Assistance Program or FOSRENOL, visit www.fosrenol.com.

*(In the event that a patient is enrolled in either Medicare Part D or the Patient Assistance Program, he or she will be provided product in monthly quantities only up to the end of the calendar year (for example, a patient approved in November will receive a 60-day supply).)

**Note to Editors:** Important Safety Information: During clinical trials, the most common side effects of FOSRENOL were gastrointestinal, and included diarrhea, flatulence, constipation, and bloating. Nausea was generally observed over time as patients continued with their treatment. Patients who stopped treatment usually reported gastrointestinal side effects as the reason for stopping. Other side effects reported in trials include: headache, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, fatigue, and low blood pressure. Although studies were designed to detect differences in risk of bone fracture and mortality, there were no differences demonstrated in patients treated with FOSRENOL compared to alternates. For more see the full prescribing information. The duration of treatment exposure and time of observation in the clinical program was too short to conclude that FOSRENOL does not affect the risk of bone fracture or mortality beyond 3 years. While lanthanum has been shown to accumulate in the body.

**Did You Know?**

(NAPSA)—Eventide will be a coastal vacation community in Panama City Beach, Fla., designed for children and adults.

Interwoven with pedestrian pathways to dining and shopping, Eventide’s residential condominium units will be walkable, just two seconds to homes or seasonal escapes. Visit www.eventideflorida.com or call Playaground at (866) 617-7615.

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“Full of Grace,” Dorothy Frank’s new novel, is full of her trademark Southern charm, wit and sassy dialogue. Either to take a look at her “Full of Grace” is like embarking upon a mile-a-minute heart-to-heart with the author about family, love, life and the search for the perfect state of grace. Visit her at www.eventideflorida.com.

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In a recent Bali intimate apparel survey, an overwhelming 93 percent of U.S. women said they’d rather live a beautiful life than have a beautiful body. That’s the concept behind the simple, elegant, and comfortable Bali Intimates, a leader in intimates.

To learn more, visit www.balicompany.com.

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Emergency rooms have been forced to close down or turn away patients because of the escalating number and cost of medical lawsuits. It’s often too late to find out more about the medical liability crisis and what you can do to protect your access to quality health care, visit www.ProtestPatientsNow.org.

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A cooking contest called Build a Better Burger is accepting entries through August 19, 2007. For the rules, visit www.aubterhome.com or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Build a Better Burger, Sutter Home Winery, P.O. Box 248, St. Helena, CA 94574-0248.

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Carbon monoxide (CO) may be the most toxic substance most people come in contact with in their daily lives. Usually, there is a new, noninvasive technology called the Masimo Rad-57 Pulse CO-Oximeter to test CO levels in the body. Learn more at masimo.com.

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An extraordinary book that should be essential reading for anyone who knows a special needs child describes what it’s like to parent a child with special needs. The book, “The Elephant in the Playroom,” brings comfort and hope to parents, grandparents and teachers.

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FOSRENOL at hand—Healthful Ways to Dine Like the Locals

(NAPSA)—Whether you’re traveling for business or pleasure, it’s important to bring healthy eating habits and your next trip.

A great way to start is by experimenting with local fare while away from home. For instance, seafood is available just about everywhere in the U.S.

Delicious Destinations

In the Pacific Northwest, seafood abounds. Local specialties such as salmon, including the chum, coho and sockeye vary widely in location, size and price. Experiment with local fare. Check out the new, noninvasive technology called the Masimo Rad-57 Pulse CO-Oximeter to test CO levels in the body. Learn more at masimo.com.

Healthful Getaways

Because fish is high in protein, low in saturated fat and a great source of omega-3s, eating local seafood can be a great way to experience new tastes while keeping your weight in check.

Wherever travel may take you, seafood is available. Varieties such as halibut, salmon, scallops and oysters can be found on menus across America. And sardines, mackerel and other varieties can be found on the shelf at markets all over the country.

Tilapia is available at restaurants nation-wide. This white, flaky fish can be prepared in a variety of ways at home. Try this recipe:

**Tilapia with Cucumberand Redish Relish**

**Ingredients**

| 1/2 cup chopped, seeded cucumber | 2 tablespoons margarine | 1 teaspoon salt | 2 teaspoons red pepper flakes |
| 1 teaspoon vegetable oil | 1 teaspoon tarragon vinegar |
| teaspoon dried tarragon | | | 6-oz. tilapia fillets |
| teaspoon dried tarragon | 2 tablespoons tarragon vinegar |

**Instructions**

Combine the first seven ingredients in a small bowl; mix well. Let stand at room temperature while preparing sauce. Saute tilapia in margarine in a large skillet over medium heat for 2 to 3 minutes on each side or until fish just begins to flake easily when tested with a fork. Transfer to serving plates. Spoon cucumber mixture over each serving. Makes 4 servings.

You can find answers to seafood questions, learn how seafood is beneficial to health and access delicious recipes at www.AboutSeafood.com.