

DaVita Exceeds Goal for Patient Vaccinations Early in Flu Season

Flu Shots a Matter of Life and Death for Kidney Patients

DENVER, Nov 07, 2011 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- [DaVita Inc.](#) (NYSE: DVA), a leading provider of kidney care services committed to improving the quality of life for those diagnosed with chronic kidney disease (CKD), announced that the company has reached its goal of vaccinating 90 percent of its patient population from the flu this season. According to internal reporting, at the end of October DaVita's patient inoculation rate already was at 90.4 percent.

To reach its 90 percent patient goal, DaVita(R) teammates (employees) and attending physicians worked together to educate patients on the importance of getting a flu shot. DaVita recognizes the critical need for protection against the virus and therefore offers the vaccine at no cost to patients.

"I'm thankful for the knowledge and experience of my caregivers," said DaVita patient Elaine Tolno at the DaVita Belcaro Dialysis Facility in Denver, Colo. "They didn't tell me I had to get a flu shot; they explained to me *why* it's important for dialysis patients to get vaccinated. Now I'm better informed and protected."

Studies have shown that high vaccination rates relate directly to fewer hospitalizations, which can lead to a better quality of life for dialysis patients. To combat the spread of the seasonal flu virus DaVita provides flu vaccines for its patients and teammates.

"CKD patients are at a higher risk for complications due to the flu virus," explained Dr. Allen R. Nissenson, DaVita's chief medical officer. "This vaccine not only improves the quality of patients' lives - it saves lives."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, seasonal flu activity can begin as early as October and continue to occur as late as May. Flu activity most commonly peaks in the U.S. in January or February. DaVita also encourages anyone who has physical contact with a dialysis patient to receive a flu vaccination early in the flu season.

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About DaVita

DaVita Inc., a Fortune 500(R) company, is a leading provider of kidney care in the United States, delivering dialysis services to patients with chronic kidney failure and end stage renal disease. DaVita strives to improve patients' quality of life by innovating clinical care, and by offering integrated treatment plans, personalized care teams and convenient health-management services. As of June 30, 2011, DaVita operated or provided administrative services at 1,669 dialysis facilities, serving approximately 131,000 patients. DaVita supports numerous programs dedicated to creating positive, sustainable change in communities around the world. The company's leadership development initiatives and social responsibility efforts have been recognized by Fortune, Modern Healthcare, Newsweek and WorldBlu. For more information, please visit <http://www.davita.com>.

SOURCE: DaVita

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