



University Health System

Media Advisory

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U.S. Rep. Rodriguez secures funding to improve access to dialysis *-Southside residents to benefit from federal appropriation-*

(SAN ANTONIO – January 7, 2008) University Health System is planning to place 50 dialysis stations in South Bexar County, where the need is the greatest, and a Federal appropriation of \$167,000, secured by U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez, will help purchase dialysis equipment for this new center. End-stage kidney disease is one of the most serious complications of diabetes, and ensuring adequate resources for patients suffering from kidney failure is critically important for the thousands of people in Bexar County whose lives depend on renal dialysis. Currently, University Health System operates three renal dialysis units. However, the growing number of patients in need of these services is surpassing current dialysis capacity. While 100 new dialysis patients are identified each year, only about half of them can be accommodated within one of our facilities.

“Diabetes has a devastating impact on the whole body, and because South Texas has one of the highest rates of diabetes in the world we have a great need locally for special services like the dialysis provided by University Health System. As a former social worker in San Antonio, I know the hardship diabetes and related illness create for families struggling to find treatment. I am proud to have secured funding to help expand access to dialysis for patients across Bexar County,” said Congressman Rodriguez.