

News column for week of 10/15/18
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Time to Review Operation Red File Information

Within the past couple of years, many Kansas counties implemented Operation Red File -- a source for emergency medical information. Neosho, Bourbon, Allen and Woodson counties have all initiated the 'Red File' program. It's time to review your Operation Red File information.

Operation Red File creates a designated location to keep critical health information accessible to emergency responders. The program was created through the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS). That agency has partnered with K-State Research and Extension throughout Kansas to distribute this important program.

The program is designed to help seniors and families with disabilities keep copies of key medical records and information at hand in case of emergencies. The red, magnetic folder is placed on the refrigerator where first responders will know to look for it. Information contained in the 'Red File' can give instant access to medical history and current medications that help avoid delays in getting much needed medical help.

Important information to be included in the red folder involve a medical form with all current medical information, other critical health related documents, a medication list that can be updated as needed, and a clear current photograph of the 'Red File' participant. A current photograph is helpful should there be a Silver Alert put into place.

The term 'current' takes on a very important meaning with Operation Red File. The 'Red Files' are only as good as they are kept up-to-date. As medical conditions and medications change, those changes should also be updated in the 'Red File.' These updates greatly assist our first responders should they need to make a call.

Individuals are encouraged to review their 'Red File' information every six months. Medicare open enrollment is going on right now. Consider making this re-enrollment period at least an annual reminder to also update your 'Red File.'

An Operation Red File Information Form to update current information may be obtained online from the Kansas Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), a part of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services. If you are new to Operation Red File, contact your K-State Research and Extension Office to find out more about your local Operation Red File program.