

Dialysis center offers comfortable atmosphere and quality care

BY JACKIE PILOSSOPH | Contributor March 26, 2013 8:26AM



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Maps



The facility, which opened in Glenview 8 months ago, employs a staff of eight, which includes nurses, technicians, a dietician, a social worker and the medical director, who is a nephrologist. | Jackie Pilossoph~for Sun-Times Media

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GLENVIEW — Alison Meyers doesn't have the appearance of someone who needs to be on dialysis. The 40-year-old songwriter from Glenview is young looking and attractive and vibrant, and otherwise healthy. But Meyers has had kidney issues since birth, and because of that has had to have dialysis treatment for 10 years.

When Satellite Dialysis opened in Glenview eight months ago, Meyers became a patient because the facility is close to her home. She said she's really glad she made the switch.

"The staff is experienced and they're conscious to your needs," said Meyers, who spends three to four hours at the facility a few days a week. "They really listen to you, and they treat you like a person instead of a number."

Satellite Dialysis is owned by Satellite Healthcare, a Silicon Valley-based company started in 1973 and known as a pioneer in renal care. In addition to conducting extensive clinical research, the company has 30 state-of-the-art, patient-friendly dialysis centers, including the Glenview location. Satellite also has 20 training and support centers for patients who choose to perform dialysis at home. One of those centers is located in

Evanston.

Keith Uyeda is a registered nurse and the clinical manager of Satellite Dialysis in Glenview.

“Chronic kidney disease is growing so much because people who have high blood pressure, diabetes, and cardiac issues can develop kidney problems,” said Uyeda, “We offer a life-saving procedure, and we make the experience as pleasant as we can for our patients. But first and foremost, we focus on patient care.”

The facility employs a staff of eight, which includes nurses, technicians, a dietician, a social worker and the medical director, who is a nephrologist.

Laura Thorson is a nurse who has worked in the dialysis field since 1985. Before working at Satellite, she performed acute treatment in hospitals.

“It’s nice to see the same people each week and to get to know them,” she said of her job at Satellite, “You can really monitor their progress and have more of an effect on their long-term care.”

“To know the patients is such a big plus,” said Spiro Encina, also a nurse at Satellite, “We know what they want, what they need, what they dislike, and because of that we can give them better treatment.”

Ish Orkar is the on-site social worker, and said patients with kidney disease often have a lot of anxiety.

“This is a big life change for a lot of people,” said Orkar, who holds a masters degree in social work, “There are a lot of things going on in their personal life, they have a lot of questions about what this means for them financially and for their families and their lifestyles, and that creates stress about how this will fit in with the rest of their life.”

Orkar said she and the staff provide emotional support, as well as medical and financial education.

“They’re not just here to get paid,” said Meyers, “They actually care about you and that makes me feel safe.”

“Dialysis doesn’t mean you have to stop having goals,” Orkar said, “We want our pa-

tients to have a high quality of life, to keep their jobs and to take trips. We just need to put a plan into place.”
