

5-24-2021

Dear members of Congress,

First and foremost, I want to thank you for the opportunity to give my testimony on behalf of 70,000 clients supplied by the City of Warren water in Trumbull County, Ohio. The public water supplied to these 70,000 clients has an aluminum level that exceeds the recommended parameters set forth by the EPA as a secondary maximum contaminant. I am aware that EPA secondary maximum contaminant levels are not enforceable, and only recommended. I can tell you as a registered nurse the aluminum levels in the City of Warren are unsafe for patients that have end-stage renal disease, and are on dialysis. The water is not safe for consumption, or for use in home hemodialysis machines. The Hemodialysis machines have standards set by the USFDA that require aluminum levels <0.200 mg/L. If it is higher than this requirement, the machine cannot be used in the home setting without putting a great burden on the patient. When the machine cannot be utilized to make quality water for dialysate, the patient has to use premade dialysate that is physically demanding. Premade dialysate requires the person to manually hang 8-10 bags per treatment 5 days each week. Each box of medication weighs approximately 15 pounds. The patient could use up to 4 to 5 cases per day, five days a week. This creates a hardship for the patient and their families. This hardship can sometimes keep the patient from performing dialysis in the home, and push them back to incenter hemodialysis.

It is my understanding the Ohio Department of Chemistry recommends the water is safe for consumption for non-compromised individuals. From a medical standpoint, any patient that is on any type of medication to regulate their health is a compromised individual. There have been numerous studies on the impact of high aluminum levels has overall health of a human being. Overtime increased levels of aluminum in the blood stream can lead to many health issues, such as: bone, neurological disorders, and cancer.

Valerie the manager of The City of Warren Water Department explained they add Aluminum to the water for clarity and to increase taste. The City of Warren Water Department's water supply is sourced from mosquito lake, as are other surrounding water municipalities. I have pulled and submitted data from 11 surrounding water municipalities, and the level of aluminum does not exceed the recommended maximum amount of 0.20 mg/L. My question to you all is why does the Warren City Water Department treat their water with such a high aluminum level, and the surrounding areas throughout the state do not?

Today I ask you to consider taking the measures and actions required to provide safe and clean drinking water that meets the secondary standards set forth by the EPA , for not only Hemodialysis patients, but everyone to have safe drinking water with low aluminum levels.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Mike Piccirilli RN BSN

Director or Operation of Home Therapy Dialysis