



## NCPA DISASTER RELIEF FUND

In light of recent flood damage throughout our state, TPA's thoughts and prayers are with all members of our pharmacy family who have experienced devastation first hand. If we can assist you, please contact us.

TPA wants to make you aware of a resource available to assist independent community pharmacists who have incurred damages to their pharmacy.

The NCPA Foundation has previously established a disaster relief fund to provide financial assistance to community pharmacy owners for the repair and rebuilding of pharmacies for their recovery in the event of disasters such as the recent storms and floods. Assistance is available to both NCPA member and nonmember independent pharmacies. Proof of damage is required.

Information about the NCPA Foundation's Disaster Relief Fund is available at <http://www.ncpafoundation.org/disaster-relief.shtml>.

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## EMERGENCY DISPENSING OF MEDICATIONS

In response to questions from pharmacists across the state regarding emergency dispensing of medications to flood victims, TPA is providing the following information.

In situations where the pharmacy has access to the prescription records, the pharmacy may provide early refills and receive payment under a law enacted in 1997 to deal with this type of situation. If pharmacies have problems getting approval for payment of early refills, please contact TPA.

### 63-10-105. Denying or withholding payment. —

(c) No program administrator shall deny or withhold payment to any pharmacy for duplicate prescription refills, or prescription refills that are dispensed early in relation to the prior day's supply dispensed, where such refills are for the purpose of replacing lost or destroyed medication or providing the patient with the quantity necessary for extended travel away from the community in which the patient resides, or for any other bona fide reason that causes the patient to be without medication, when the discontinuation of the medicine would, in the pharmacist's professional judgment, place the patient at risk of harm.

In situations where the pharmacy does not have access to prescription records and the patient can provide sufficient information for the pharmacist to identify the needed medication, the pharmacist can provide an emergency supply under the provisions of another law contained in the Pharmacy Practice Act.

### 63-10-207. Dispensing of medication prior to authorization. —

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a pharmacist may, in good faith, dispense to a patient without proper authorization the number of dosages of a prescription drug necessary to allow such patient to secure such authorization from such patient's prescriber not to exceed a seventy-two (72) hour supply, if:

- (1) The patient offers satisfactory evidence to the pharmacist that the prescriber has placed the patient on a maintenance medication, and that such patient is without valid refills, or for some valid reason cannot obtain proper authorization; and
- (2) In the judgment of the pharmacist, the health, safety and welfare of the patient would otherwise be endangered.

(b) This section shall not be construed to authorize dispensing of controlled substance medication without proper authorization.

(c) If proper authorization cannot be obtained during the seventy-two-hour period, then the pharmacist may dispense the number of dosages necessary for one (1) additional consecutive seventy-two-hour period in accordance with the requirements of this section.

The Tennessee Board of Pharmacy office is still closed due to flooding in Metro Center. If you need to contact them, please call: Kevin Eidson 615.306.0665, Terry Grinder 931.698.4650, or Tommy Chrisp 615.476.6237

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PROVIDING INDEPENDENT PHARMACY WITH  
THE RESOURCES TO STAY COMPETITIVE

