



Hurricane Gustav Evacuees— Important Information for Tennessee Pharmacists

Over the next several days, more than 6,000 evacuees from the Gulf Coast are expected to arrive in Tennessee to be housed in shelters throughout the state. The evacuees may need new prescriptions filled and medication refills provided. On August 31, 2008, Governor Phil Bredesen signed Executive Order No. 57, now in effect. Under this Executive Order, **“the provisions of Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-10-207(a) and (c) are hereby suspended to allow a pharmacist to dispense a thirty-day supply of a prescription drug without proper authorization to evacuees from Hurricane Gustav, subject to all other provisions of § 63-10-207.”** Executive Order No. 57 expires at midnight on September 30, 2008.

This Executive Order only applies to non-scheduled prescription medications and at this time does not include controlled substances. Pharmacists, on their best professional judgment, may dispense up to a 30-day supply of medications to these patients. Pharmacists should keep good records and accountability of the medications being dispensed to displaced Gulf Coast residents. This includes Name, Permanent Address, Phone Numbers, Date of Birth, Allergies, Name of Medication Dispensed, Quantity and Directions for Use. Some personal identifier, such as Driver's License information, Social Security Number or other specific I.D., may be required if reimbursement is sought from other sources.

Currently, reimbursement is not guaranteed by the Executive Order. Private insurances can be billed where applicable. The Tennessee Pharmacists Association is awaiting information about reimbursement from TEMA/FEMA and the suspension of rules to allow Tennessee pharmacies to fill prescriptions for Louisiana Medicaid patients and be reimbursed. As soon as this information is available, TPA will relay it to members.

If you have questions about licensure/regulatory issues as they pertain to the Executive Order, the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy is available for you to call at 615-253-1299.

The Tennessee Pharmacists Association office is closed Monday for Labor Day. In any event, TPA will notify members by e-mail if updates about Hurricane Gustav evacuees are received.

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