



Tropical Storm Gustav Executive Order Provisions

On September 1, the Tennessee Pharmacists Association notified pharmacists that Governor Phil Bredesen had issued Executive Order No. 57 to enable pharmacies in the State of Tennessee to assist displaced Gulf Coast residents impacted by tropical weather system Gustav. Additional information about the provisions of the Executive Order have been received and are outlined below. The provisions of the Executive Order began on August 31 and will remain in effect until September 30, 2008.

- Pharmacists must use discretion and professional judgment in dispensing refills of medications for patients affected by the storm.
- If a patient from the area affected by the tropical weather system requests a refill of a maintenance (non-controlled) medication, the pharmacist should make an attempt to contact the original prescriber for authorization to dispense refills.
- If in the pharmacist's professional judgment, the dispensing of the medication is essential to the patient's health and safety, the pharmacist may dispense a one-time emergency supply of up to a thirty (30) day supply of non-controlled medication without authorization from the prescriber.
- Pharmacists are responsible for providing patient consultation, obtaining medication histories and conducting a prospective DUR prior to dispensing medications.
- The prescription should be marked as an "Emergency" prescription for a person displaced by the hurricane and numbered and filed in accordance with Board regulations.
- A pharmacist may dispense drugs as prescribed to evacuees from Hurricane Gustav, which suspends Tennessee Affordable Drug Act under Tenn. Code Ann., Title 53, Chapter 10, Part 2. This will allow a pharmacist to continue the patient's course of therapy without having to assure the medical necessity for the brand name.
- A pharmacist shall not give an emergency advance of controlled substance medications without proper authorization from the prescriber.

Questions concerning the Executive Order may be addressed to the Board of Pharmacy at 615-253-1299. *ONLY CALLS REGARDING THE EXECUTIVE ORDER OR LEGAL ISSUES WILL BE ADDRESSED BY THE BOARD OF PHARMACY.*

Medicaid Information for Pharmacies Serving Gustav Evacuees

The Bureau of TennCare issued a notice today containing information about Louisiana and Mississippi Medicaid for pharmacies providing services to Gustav evacuees. The notice is available on the Tennessee Pharmacists Association website at <http://www.tnpharm.org/TennCareGustavMemo9.2.08.pdf>.

Pharmacy Reimbursement by FEMA/TEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Assistance Policy provides emergency protective measures for providing prescription assistance of up to a 30-day supply of medications and provision of health information.

- The State, through the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), will reimburse pharmacies for all eligible prescriptions (FEMA definition: "Prescription assistance limited up to a one time 30-day supply for acute conditions and to replace maintenance prescriptions") written for evacuees in state-sanctioned shelters.
- Each pharmacy must invoice for all eligible prescriptions filled along with documentation of filled prescriptions. Billing documentation is critical. Include Name of Patient, Permanent Address of Patient, Phone Number of Patient, Date of Birth of Patient, Identifier of Patient such as Driver's License Number, Social Security Number, State Medicaid Program Identification Number, etc., Name of Medication and Strength, Quantity Dispensed, Date Dispensed, Days Supply of Medication, Prescriber Name and Amount Charged (Reasonable and Customary).

Further information about the specific process for submitting invoices for reimbursement is not yet available, and the phone number for questions concerning invoices has not been released at this time. When the number and/or additional information is available, the Tennessee Pharmacists Association will communicate the information to members.

Tennessee Pharmacists Association 615.256.3023 615.255.3528 Fax tpa@tnpharm.org www.tnpharm.org



PROVIDING INDEPENDENT PHARMACY WITH THE TOOLS TO STAY COMPETITIVE

