



MICHIGAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING COMMUNITY PHARMACY ALL HAZARDS DISPENSING PROGRAM

- 1. Are community pharmacies required to sign an agreement in order to participate as a partner for emergency preparedness?**
No written agreement is required; however, it is recommended in order to clearly delineate the expectations of both parties and to describe their roles and responsibilities.
- 2. If I am a national community pharmacy chain, do I have to enter the address for each site located in Michigan?**
No. If you are a national community pharmacy chain and recognized as such, we can just list your name. Then, local public health department emergency preparedness coordinators (LHD EPCs) will know that all of your stores listed under that name are participating in the project. It is the hope that this list will be a resource to enable LHD EPCs to be successful in reaching out to partner with community pharmacies because of their commitment to this project.
- 3. How do I make contact with my LHD EPC?**
Establishing contact with this person and exchanging contact information pre-event is very important. Local health departments have the responsibility of establishing, exercising and implementing emergency preparedness plans for the jurisdiction, for which pharmacies can be a great resource for enriching the plan. A listing can be found online at www.Michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71548_54783_54826_56171---,00.html.
- 4. Why is registration in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) important for a medical countermeasure dispensing project?**
The MCIR is our state's vaccine registry, but it will also be used to track dispensing of federally supplied medical countermeasures during a health emergency incident. This tracking allows response planners to be able to determine where "best practices" were established that led to thorough and effective dissemination of necessary medical assets. MCIR can be accessed online at www.MCIR.org.
- 5. Why is it important to register on the MI Volunteer Registry?**
It is important for response planners to not only manage resources, but people as well. Registering as a pharmacist on this volunteer registry allows those managing the response to an emergency to reach out to volunteers with the specific certifications and skill sets that pharmacists can bring. Being contacted and requested by the registry allows you to not only make the decision to respond but also to know when to arrive, where to report to, who to report to and how best to be prepared to play a major role. Those who respond to an emergency as a result of being requested through the registry are also extended very important liability protection and coverage. Access the registry online at www.MIVolunteerRegistry.org.

6. How do I begin to develop an emergency preparedness plan for my worksite?

Developing an emergency preparedness plan may seem like a difficult task, therefore, a template has been prepared for you to use. It is available on the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) Web site. Visit www.MichiganPharmacists.org/resources/emergency, click on the black bar entitled “Additional Emergency Preparedness Resources” and utilize the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) template.

7. What trainings are available that may help myself and/or my staff prepare for emergency/crisis events?

The FEMA Incident Command 100 and 200 certifications are essential trainings for anyone who would like to participate in either an exercise or an actual response. Links to the trainings are available on the MPA Web site. Visit www.MichiganPharmacists.org/resources/emergency and click on the black bar entitled “Emergency Preparedness Education and Training.” Completion of a Basic Disaster Life Support certification would be of great benefit to anyone taking these courses as well. It is an overview of all hazards emergency response planning. Access to sponsored classes is available through the MPA Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Please call (517) 484-1466 if you are interested.

8. What role does the Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP) play in the distribution project?

The EPAP is a temporary federal program that provided reimbursement to pharmacies that were involved in dispensing maintenance medications to persons displaced due to Hurricane Katrina. Its applicability has evolved, and may play a role in future medical countermeasure dispensing. Registration can be confirmed by calling 1-866-935-4135.