

Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP)

Description: The purpose of the EPAP is to perform the activities related to processing claims for prescription medications, vaccines, specific medical supplies and certain durable medical equipment (DME) for designated eligible individuals in a Federally-identified disaster area. EPAP allows any enrolled retail pharmacy in the United States and its territories to use existing electronic pharmacy systems as an infrastructure to efficiently process prescription medications, vaccines, certain medical supplies and certain DME for individuals that are eligible for the Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP). Currently, EPAP has a network of 72,000 retail pharmacies in the United States and US Territories.

Accessing the Capability: The State, Local, Tribal, or Territorial (SLTT) points of contact to coordinate a request for EPAP support are the ASPR Regional Emergency Coordinators (REC). They will assist the requestor in articulating the requirement and needs for the response. Contact information for RECs is at:

<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/rec/Pages/contacts.aspx>.

EPAP is officially requested by states' department of health through their states' emergency management agency, which fills out the FEMA Resources Request Form (RRF) and submits the RRF to FEMA for approval. Once FEMA approves the RRF, FEMA will generate a mission assignment to HHS for activation and deployment of EPAP for specific geographical locations.

Contact Agency or Subject Matter Expert: For more information regarding EPAP, please see: <http://phe.gov/preparedness/planning/epap/pages/default.aspx>

Additional Information: EPAP provides a 30-day supply of covered prescription medications and specific medical supplies (i.e. test strips) that can be renewed every 30 days for as long as EPAP is active. It also covers vaccines and DME such as canes, crutches, wheelchairs and walkers. . Affected populations can get prescription medications, vaccines, medical supplies and DME due to lost as a direct result of the declared emergency or as a secondary result of loss or damage caused while in transit from the emergency site to the designated shelter facility. EPAP coverage will be issued for identify populations from specific locations (disaster effected areas by zip) who may be eligible for prescription medications, vaccines, medical supplies and DME assistance and dates.

This effort is performed under the authority cited in Sections 403 and 502(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), 42 USC [5170b](#) and [5192\(a\)](#) or under the authorities of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) to provide emergency medical care to the victims of public health emergencies and catastrophic events that overwhelm the capacity of state and local emergency medical systems to respond to these disasters. Section 2812 of the PHS Act provides that the Secretary may activate the NDMS to “provide health services, health-related social services, other appropriate human services, and appropriate auxiliary services to respond to the needs of victims of a public health emergency (whether or not determined to be a public health emergency under section 319).

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