



# Pharmacy Update

Pharmacy Help Desk Phone Numbers (405)522-6205 option 4 or (800)522-0114 option 4

Service Hours: Monday – Friday (8:30a – 7:00p); Saturday (9:00a – 5:00p); Sunday (11:00a – 5:00p)

Email: [pharmacy@okhca.org](mailto:pharmacy@okhca.org) OHCA Website: [www.okhca.org](http://www.okhca.org)

PA Criteria/Step Therapy Tiers: [www.okhca.org/providers/rx/pa](http://www.okhca.org/providers/rx/pa) PA forms: [www.okhca.org/rx-forms](http://www.okhca.org/rx-forms)

**May 21, 2013**

Please contact the OHCA Pharmacy Help Desk if SoonerCare members have lost medications in the recent storms. We can assist with early refill overrides and work with pharmacies to ensure that our members receive needed medications.

## **State Board of Pharmacy Emergency/Disaster Rules in Effect for Counties Affected by the Recent Storms**

Based upon the emergency declarations of Governor Mary Fallin, the emergency/disaster rules of the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy are in effect for those in areas affected by the recent storms. The counties included in the declaration are Caddo, Cleveland, Comanche, Creek, Garfield, Grant, Greer, Kiowa, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Pawnee, Payne, and Pottawatomie.

These rules include the ability of a pharmacy to fill prescriptions for patients affected by the emergency/disaster to have a prescription filled for up to a 30-day supply of non-controlled medication even if the pharmacy is unable to contact the physician due to the emergency situation. Controlled drugs (such as hydrocodone and alprazolam) are subject to different rules based upon Drug Enforcement Administration and Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics declarations. Pharmacists must use professional judgment in these situations to help patients continue their medication treatments during emergency/disaster situations. The rule covering these situations is included below:

### **535:13-1-4. Pharmacy Emergency / Disaster Response**

(a) If a patient from the area affected by the emergency / disaster declaration requests a refill of a non-controlled maintenance medication, the pharmacist should make an attempt to contact the original prescribing practitioner for authorization to dispense refills.

(1) If the prescribing practitioner cannot be contacted; and 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 up to a 30-day supply of such medication.

(2) The prescription should be marked as an "Emergency" prescription for a person displaced or affected by such disaster.

(b) If a patient from the area affected by the emergency / disaster requests refills of controlled dangerous substance (CDS), the pharmacist should make an attempt to contact the original prescribing practitioner for authorization to dispense refills.

(c) If the pharmacist is unable to contact the prescribing practitioner regarding a CDS prescription, then they must check with the federal Drug Enforcement [Administration] (DEA) and Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) to see if they have approved an emergency dispensing of CDS for patients affected by the emergency / disaster.

(1) If the federal DEA and OBN approve dispensing CDS in an emergency or disaster situation; and, 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 up to the allowed limit set by DEA and OBN not to exceed a ten (10) day supply of CDS medication.

(A) The patient should provide identification and a prescription vial or some means of determining the person has been prescribed such medication.

(B) The prescription should be marked as an "Emergency" prescription for a person displaced or affected by the disaster.

(2) If emergency CDS dispensing is NOT approved by the federal DEA and OBN the patients will have to be referred to a healthcare professional.

[Source: Added at 24 Ok Reg 2256, eff 7-01-07]

**We appreciate the services you provide to Oklahomans insured by SoonerCare.**