



Ensuring Continuity of Care During and After Emergencies and Natural Disasters

Pharmacy closures around natural disasters and other emergencies can significantly impact continuity of care for patients. Here are a few ways you can help ensure patients can continue to access the medications and care they need.



If your pharmacy anticipates an emergency closure

Communicate with patients expecting prescriptions and facilitate access by:

Providing a **timeframe** for pick up or delivery, if feasible.

Transferring existing prescription(s) to **unaffected pharmacies** with patient consent.

Ensuring the **provincial patient medication** database is up to date, if applicable



If your pharmacy will be supporting emergency cases/displaced patients

Use your **professional judgement** to provide patients with access to medication by following provincial standards and regulations. Some things you may consider include:

Attempting to **contact the prescriber** and request another prescription, if applicable.

Assessing the patient and providing a prescription, if the patient's condition falls under the scope of practice for pharmacist prescribing.

Offering **alternative non-prescription medication(s)** where appropriate.

Emergency prescribing where appropriate, provided proof of original prescription is documented (e.g., prescription vial labels or verification through a provincial patient medication database, etc.). Depending on your province, pharmacists may exercise professional judgement for emergency prescribing during a declared state of emergency.

Transferring existing prescription(s) to **unaffected pharmacies** with patient consent.

For more tools, information and resources on natural disasters and pharmacy practice, please visit our website at www.pharmacists.ca/disaster.



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References

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5. Emergency preparedness resource kit for Pharmacists. College of Pharmacists of Manitoba. July 2016. Accessed August 25, 2023. <https://cphm.ca/wp-content/uploads/Resource-Library/Guidelines/Emergency-Preparedness.pdf>
6. Ethical Duty during an Emergency, Disaster or Pandemic for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians. Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals. November 2016. Accessed August 25, 2023. https://scp.in1touch.org/document/3605/REF_Emergency_Ethical_Duty_Nov2016.pdf
7. Emergency Preparedness Resource Kit for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians. Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals October 10, 2020. Accessed August 25, 2023. https://saskpharm.ca/document/3607/REF_Emergency_Preparedness_Kit.pdf

Disclaimer: This document is not intended to replace specific provincial guidance from your regulator. Refer to your provincial standards and regulations for more information.



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