

## Emergency HIV prescription information for hurricane evacuees

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has activated a special Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP), available to evacuees in Texas counties listed on the following document: [www.cms.hhs.gov/Emergency/Downloads/EPAP\\_PublicComm\\_Ike.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Emergency/Downloads/EPAP_PublicComm_Ike.pdf). The EPAP will provide a one-time 30-day supply of medications to treat acute conditions and replace maintenance prescription drugs or medical equipment lost as a direct result of Hurricane Ike. This special assistance is currently scheduled to be available between Sept. 12, 2008 and Sept. 22, 2008.

**If you live in Texas, are already enrolled in the Texas HIV Medication Program (THMP), and have to leave your home due to an impending hurricane or subsequent flooding and storm damages**, please call the program directly at either 512-533-3000 or 800-255-1090 to request a temporary pharmacy transfer. We'll be able to set you up at an alternate pharmacy location in Texas to pick up your HIV medications while you're displaced. If at all possible, please take your **current** supply of medications with you before you leave your home, so that you may continue to use that supply. The new pharmacy you're assigned to will need as much information as possible from you regarding prescriptions in order to supply additional drugs to you, so the labels on your current prescription bottles and any other details regarding your physician will be a tremendous help to them. Remember, if you don't have any additional refills available on the prescription you're currently using, the pharmacy can't fill your request unless they can reach your doctor's office and obtain authorization to do so.

**If you're a Texas State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP) enrollee using your Medicare Part D plan to obtain your HIV medications**, please note that you may continue to fill your prescriptions from any participating pharmacy in the statewide SPAP network. (For example, any Albertsons, CVS, Kroger, Randalls, Target, Tom Thumb or Walgreens pharmacy in Texas can process the SPAP prescriptions.) A complete list of SPAP pharmacies is available at [http://www.publichealthrx.com/pharm\\_tx\\_spap.html](http://www.publichealthrx.com/pharm_tx_spap.html).

**If you're currently enrolled in an ADAP program in your home state and have been evacuated to Texas from a neighboring state** due to a natural disaster or weather emergency, there's a special Emergency Relief Application you can complete and fax into the THMP offices at 512-371-4670 along with proof of identity (such as a copy of your state ID or driver's license) and a copy of your state ADAP ID card if available. Our staff will contact you at the phone number you provide and assign you to a Texas pharmacy location in order to pick up an initial 30-day supply of HIV medications while you're temporarily in Texas awaiting the okay to return to your home state. The application you'll need to complete can be downloaded at: [www.dshs.state.tx.us/hivstd/meds/PDF/URGENT.pdf](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/hivstd/meds/PDF/URGENT.pdf).

Anyone needing access to fax machines or local support services is encouraged to seek out assistance from local service providers. A listing of such organizations can be found on the Texas HIV/STD Service Directory page, located at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/hivstd/services/service.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/hivstd/services/service.shtm).

**For those THMP clients who evacuated to Louisiana or other surrounding states due to Hurricane Ike and may be in need of medications, the aforementioned EPAP assistance should be available to you through Sept. 22, 2008. If you have any questions or concerns, or are unable to access medications through the EPAP, please contact the THMP directly**, call the THMP office at 800-255-1090 or 512-533-3000 and ask to speak to Becky Ruiz (ext. 3006) or Katherine Wells (ext. 3008). When you call please have the following info available, if possible:

- 1) Your name (or the client's name), your previous address in Texas, and the pharmacy name and address you were assigned to in Texas.
- 2) Your current address and a telephone number where you can be reached.
- 3) The names of the medications you need to have refilled.

The THMP has developed a plan to use its mail order pharmacy, PMO (located in Shreveport , La. ) to assist with dispensing medications to clients evacuated outside of Texas . Mail order transfers may take up to several days for clients to receive their medications if home delivery is required. Walk-up dispensing is available at the pharmacy in Shreveport but must be prearranged with the THMP. The PMO pharmacy is located at 2255 Woodward Avenue , Shreveport , LA 71103 . Their toll free number is 1-800-429-0161 .

Emergency medication dispensing is for one month's supply of medication only. Clients evacuated outside of Texas for longer than one month and needing medication assistance should contact the ADAP office to discuss their situation and what other options may be available on a case-by-case basis.

### Post-hurricane agency update: Triangle AIDS Network

Due to Hurricane Ike, Triangle AIDS Network's (TAN) office in Beaumont is currently closed until further notice. However, TAN is answering their main phone line and responding to immediate client needs. If you need to contact the agency, call 409-832-8338.

As of Sept. 15, TAN's 21st Annual AIDS Update is still scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 15 at the Holiday Inn Beaumont Plaza in Beaumont . The registration brochure is now available at [www.tanbmt.com/tanevents/update/up08/up08brochure/2008UpdateBrochure.pdf](http://www.tanbmt.com/tanevents/update/up08/up08brochure/2008UpdateBrochure.pdf).

If you would like to provide information to *Texas HIV/STD E-Update* readers on the status of your agency, please send your update to [greg.beets@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:greg.beets@dshs.state.tx.us).