

<b>Department:</b>	Pharmacy	<b>Original Approval:</b>	12/14/2011
<b>Policy #:</b>	PM514	<b>Last Approval:</b>	03/13/2019
<b>Title:</b>	Pharmacy Access During a Federal Disaster or Other Public Health Emergency Declaration		
<b>Approved By:</b>	Medical Management Leadership Team		
<b>Dependencies:</b>	None		

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for handling emergency prescription dispensing and early refill requests for beneficiaries during a federal disaster or other public health emergency response for all lines of business.

## Policy

This policy applies when a Presidential major disaster or emergency declaration is issued or the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) declares a public health emergency, and the underlying circumstances are reasonably expected to result in a disruption in access to drugs. Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW) will ensure appropriate and adequate prescription drug coverage for our beneficiaries during declared emergencies or disasters.

Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW) partners with its Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) in implementing an emergency prescription dispensing plan to ensure beneficiaries receive appropriate and adequate prescription drug coverage during declared emergencies or disasters. Table 1 lists the activities of the emergency prescription dispensing plan.

**Table 1. Emergency Prescription Dispensing Plan Activities and Ownership**

Activities	Performed by CHPW	Performed by PBM
Identifying and monitoring affected emergency areas via the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) websites <sup>1</sup> or in advance of an impending disaster by State officials for a particular geographical location		X
Sending an electronic communication to notify CHPW regarding affected emergency areas		X
Authorizing PBM to process emergency fills in areas where a State of emergency is declared for those geographic locations	X	
Authorizing PBM to use existing eligibility extract to process claims	X	

<sup>1</sup> FEMA website: <http://www.fema.gov/news/disasters.fema>

DHHS website: <http://www.dhhs.gov>



Activities	Performed by CHPW	Performed by PBM
Authorizing the routing of customer service calls related to prescription services to PBM	X	
Implementing emergency prescription dispensing plan for all impacted areas where an emergency or disaster has been declared. a) "Refill too soon (RTS)" edits will be lifted b) Once RTS edits have been lifted, faxes will be sent to applicable pharmacies with appropriate RTS override codes		X
Sending an electronic communication to notify CHPW that PBM is invoking emergency prescription dispensing plan in affected areas.		X
Timeline for termination of an emergency prescription dispensing plan: a) In the case of a public health emergency, emergency prescription dispensing plan terminates when the emergency no longer exists or upon the expiration of the 90-day period beginning from the initial declaration, whichever occurs first. b) In the case of major disasters or emergencies, emergency prescription dispensing plan terminates 6 weeks from the initial declaration, but may be extended based on case-by-case situation by CHPW. At the end of 6 weeks, normal operations will be reinstated.		X
Sending an electronic communication to notify CHPW that normal pharmacy operation will be reinstated at the end of the emergency declaration, as specified in the FEMA or DHHS websites.		X

### List of Appendices

None

### Citations & References

<b>CFR</b>	
<b>WAC</b>	
<b>RCW</b>	
<b>Contract Citation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WAH
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MA Prescription Drug Benefit Manual Chapter 5, 50.12
<b>Other Requirements</b>	
<b>NCQA Elements</b>	

## Revision History

Revision Date	Revision Description	Revision Made By
11/23/2011	New	Maria Chan
12/14/2011	Approval	MMLT
03/30/2012	Review. No changes	Eric Guyette
04/04/2012	Approval	MMLT
03/27/2013	Review. Minor changes	Reid Yamamoto
04/19/2013	Approval	MMLT
04/16/2014	Review. No changes	Steven Zona
04/23/2014	Approval	MMLT
03/27/2015	Review and no changes	Mary Eckhart
04/07/2015	Approval	MMLT
03/04/2016	Added Exchange LOB	Mary Eckhart
03/18/2016	Approval	MMLT
03/01/2017	Moved to new template	Mary Eckhart
03/14/2017	Approval	MMLT
03/02/2018	Moved to new template	Mary Eckhart
03/13/2018	Approval	MMLT
03/12/2019	Reviewed, no changes	Rashelle Heath
03/13/2019	Approval	MMLT