

# Emergency Prescription Assistant Program: A way to help the most vulnerable during disasters

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# Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this activity, the participant will be able to:

- ▶ Participants will gain an understanding of the EPAP program as far as how it is activated, funded, and accessed by uninsured populations following a declaration
- ▶ Participants will be able to access web site and know its contents
- ▶ Participants will be able/be encouraged to explore potential adaptations and future iterations of this valuable disaster response tool

# What is EPAP?

- ▶ Emergency Prescription Assistance Program
- ▶ Activated by U.S. President or Public Health Emergencies by HHS Secretary
- ▶ Processing claims [**drugs, vaccines, durable medical equipment (DME) and medical supplies**] using the pharmacy benefit manager (PBM)
- ▶ HHS/Logistics developed our own formulary; can be change the formulary but it takes two weeks
- ▶ EPAP has network of approximately 72,000 community retail pharmacies in the US and US territories
- ▶ More information on EPAP:
  - ▶ EPAP Website:
    - ▶ [www.phe.gov/EPAP](http://www.phe.gov/EPAP)
  - ▶ ASPR Tracie Fact Sheet on EPAP
    - ▶ <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/MasterSearch?qt=EPAP&page=1>

# EPAP Website



## Public Health Emergency

Public Health and Medical Emergency Support for a Nation Prepared

PHE Home > Preparedness > Planning > EPAP

Search

## Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP)



What is it?

EPAP provides an efficient mechanism for over 70,000 enrolled retail pharmacies nationwide to process claims for certain kinds of prescription drugs, specific medical supplies, vaccines and some forms of durable medical equipment (DME) for eligible individuals in a Federally-identified disaster area. [Learn More >>](#)



Why does it matter?

Ensuring that people can access the drugs, medical supplies, vaccines and DME that they rely on every day helps patients cope with a disaster more effectively and prevents stress on the healthcare system. This makes individuals and their communities better able to cope with disasters. [Learn More >>](#)



How can patients get assistance?

Patients who do not have health insurance may qualify for help under EPAP. Eligible patients will can initiate a claim for certain medical items if they were lost, stolen or destroyed as the result of certain disasters. Find out about the process for getting assistance. [Learn More >>](#)



How can pharmacies access EPAP?

By planning now, you can get ready to help your patients stay healthy when disaster strikes. Pharmacies have to enroll in EPAP before they can process claims under the system, but enrollment is simple. Learn how your pharmacy can get ready to help EPAP-eligible patients when disaster strikes. [Learn more >>](#)

### EPAP Affected Areas

There are no affected areas at this time.

### Resources and Tools

- ▶ EPAP Infographic:
  - ▶ [English](#)
  - ▶ [Español \(Spanish\)](#)
  - ▶ [Tiếng Việt \(Vietnamese\)](#)
- ▶ What You Need to Know About EPAP:
  - ▶ [English](#)
  - ▶ [Español \(Spanish\)](#)
  - ▶ [Tiếng Việt \(Vietnamese\)](#)
- ▶ [EPAP Formulary](#)
- ▶ [Enrolled Pharmacies](#)

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# Transformation of EPAP

- ▶ ASPR was tasked by the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide “essential medical assistance”
- ▶ Under ASPR, additional coverage for EPAP (2015):
  - ▶ **Medical Supplies and Vaccines**

# How does EPAP work?

## At the **Retail** Pharmacy

- ▶ Eligible **uninsured individuals** can present at the **participated retail pharmacies** with a valid prescription, can be Electronic or Paper
- ▶ EPAP is the last payer for pharmacy plan
- ▶ Activation is within 24 hours of notice by the EPAP program manager
- ▶ Non-participating retail pharmacies NOT part of EPAP network, can be enrolled (can take up to a few weeks)
- ▶ Retail pharmacy checks for other third party coverage
  - ▶ If other coverage exists, the pharmacy should bill the existing payer
  - ▶ If no other coverage exists, the pharmacy captures the patient's address to make sure they are from the affected area

# How does EPAP work?

## At the **Patient** level

- ▶ Affected patients will receive a message via social media or in-person announcement at the shelter from their State representatives, ASPR Communication Team, Retail Pharmacies and our vendor
- ▶ Affected patients will call EPAP number to enroll to the program
- ▶ ASPR website ([www.phe.gov/EPAP](http://www.phe.gov/EPAP)) also post EPAP activation for patients
- ▶ EPAP is the last payer for pharmacy plan
- ▶ Affected patient has \$0 copay
- ▶ Retail pharmacy checks for other third party coverage
  - ▶ If other coverage exists, the pharmacy should bill the existing payer
  - ▶ If no other coverage exists, the pharmacy captures the patient's address to make sure they are from the affected area



# Questions?

## Contact Information:

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