

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 7 September 2021

Response Date: 8 September 2021

Type of TA Request: Complex

Request:

The requestor asked for assistance with identifying resources related to drug stability or the storage of drugs that deviate from normal temperatures due to natural disasters.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE team reviewed the [Pharmacy Topic Collection](#) and reached out to our ASPR TRACIE Subject Matter Expert (SME) cadre members for additional resources. Materials gathered are included in Section I of this document.

I. Select Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2021). [Vaccine Storage and Handling Resources](#).

This page includes a link to CDC's vaccine [Toolkit](#), which provides instruction for emergency vaccine storage and handling, and information for what to do in the event of a disaster.

Huynh-Ba, K., and Latoz, C., (2021). [How to Investigate Temperature and Humidity Excursions of Stability Chambers](#). American Pharmaceutical Review.

The authors of this article discuss how to investigate temperature and humidity excursions of stability chambers.

National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. (2006). [Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Response Planning: A Guide for Boards of Pharmacy](#).

This guidance document was developed for the Boards of Pharmacy to assist them with developing robust emergency and disaster plans that complement local efforts. It also includes several appendices, which contain guidance information and templates for issues such as emergency planning, maintaining operations, and communications. **NOTE:** Review the section titled Disposal of Prescription Drugs in Pharmacies Affected by a Certain Disasters beginning on page 38.

Rx Response. (2015). [Stability of Refrigerated Drugs](#).

This chart details the stability of the most commonly dispensed refrigerated drug products (based on the U.S. top 200 prescription medications in 2014), and over-the-counter

insulin products. The chart includes proper storage data, allowable temperature excursions and the length of time such excursions are permitted, and contact information for product manufacturers.

Santye, L. (2017). [Pharmacists in Texas Provide Calm Amidst the Storm of Hurricane Harvey](#). Specialty Pharmacy Times.

In this article, the CEO of a pharmacy with locations across Texas shares lessons learned from his organization's experience during Hurricane Harvey. Key lessons learned include: contacting patients in advance of a storm and ensuring that they have sufficient supplies of medications to last more than just a few days; tracking down patients after a storm using social media; using courier services to send medications to patients who cannot get to the stores; and using a wholesaler with robust back-up power and monitoring capabilities to store temperature-controlled medications.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (n.d.). [Safe Drug Use after a Natural Disaster](#). (Accessed 9/8/2021.)

The Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration offers information on the use of drugs that have been potentially affected by fire, flooding or unsafe water, and the use of temperature-sensitive drug products when refrigeration is temporarily unavailable.