

Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP) Superstorm Sandy Data Fact Sheet

August 2016

The Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP) is funded by the Stafford Act and designed to help disaster survivors access prescription medicines. EPAP can also be activated by the Public Health Service Act under the authority of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). The program utilizes normal business operations (e.g., electronic prescription claims processing, utilization of the normal pharmaceutical supply chain for distribution and dispensing) to pay for prescription medications for eligible persons.

This fact sheet provides a summary of the EPAP data collected and analyzed following Superstorm Sandy for New Jersey and New York **through October 30, 2013**.

A more detailed Information Paper is available for this event. To access this document or to request additional data beyond what is provided in this document, contact the HHS/ASPR [Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange \(TRACIE\)](#) at askasprtracie@hhs.gov or 1844-5-TRACIE (587-2243).

Superstorm Sandy EPAP Claims

- The EPAP was enacted following Superstorm Sandy for residents of the following New Jersey counties beginning November 4, 2012: Atlantic, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Union, Ocean, Monmouth and Middlesex.
- Activation for New York counties started on November 6 for residents of Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond and Suffolk Counties.
- EPAP was enacted for a total of 805 eligible zip codes across the 15 counties in New York and New Jersey.
- A total of 5,194 paid claims for prescriptions were processed through EPAP for a billable amount of \$806,110.61. No durable medical equipment (DME) benefits were provided during this activation of EPAP.
- By October 30, 2013, there were a total of 13,818 claims for a billable amount of \$1,266,755.
 - New York: 8,902 claims were filed for a total of \$995,507
 - New Jersey: 4,916 claims were filed for a total of \$271,247

Patient Demographics

- EPAP served over 2,000 individuals from New Jersey (n=678) and New York (n=1357).
- Patients served ranged in age from 2 months to 93 years of age, with the highest numbers of claims filled for the age ranges between 40 and 69 years.
- The number of claims averaged 2.3 per patient, with a range from 0 (claim rejected or reversed by the pharmacy) to a high of 23 for one individual.
- The geographic distribution of the EPAP claimants' pre-storm residences covered over 266 of the 805 eligible zip codes.
- The zip codes with the highest numbers of patients filing claims included:
 - New York: Queens County (Far Rockaway 11691); Nassau County (Hicksville 11801); and Kings County (Brooklyn 11224).
 - New Jersey: Hudson County (Harrison 07029) and Essex County (Newark 07104).
 - The EPAP paid for 1,188 claims from residents from these 5 zip codes, representing 23% of all paid claims.

Pharmacy Demographics

- A total of 291 pharmacies participated in the EPAP.
- Eligibility for service is based on the patient's pre-storm residence and not where pharmacy services are provided, therefore, claims were also processed in 10 zip codes outside of the declared areas.
- Approximately 40% of participating pharmacies in both states only provided one or two EPAP-paid claims (NJ – 39%, NY – 42%).
- The top five pharmacies that imparted extensive services through the EPAP (as measured by number of paid claims) provided 30% of the services in New York and 53% of the services in New Jersey.

Top Pharmacies - NY

Rank by Paid Claims	Amount Due	# Paid Claims	Pharmacy Location	Rank by \$
1	\$25,536.99	317	HICKSVILLE NY	3
2	\$16,389.98	310	FAR ROCKAWAY NY	6
3	\$9,838.19	166	BROOKLYN NY	11
4	\$17,689.94	138	BROOKLYN NY	5
5	\$8,641.25	136	FAR ROCKAWAY NY	13

Top Pharmacies - NJ

Rank by Paid Claims	Amount Due	# Paid Claims	Pharmacy Location	Rank by \$
1	\$19,400.79	339	HARRISON NJ	3
2	\$20,151.54	212	JERSEY CITY NJ	2
3	\$22,524.30	186	NEWARK NJ	1
4	\$2,666.69	70	ATLANTIC CITY NJ	8
5	\$3,746.05	69	LITTLE SILVER NJ	6

Pharmacy Services: New Jersey and New York Combined

- Of the 15 drug categories in highest demand, 12 likely represent chronic or continuing care medications, while the remaining three (Analgesics-Narcotic, Analgesics-Anti-Inflammatory and Dermatological) probably represent a mix of both chronic and acute care needs.
- The number of drug/dosage forms/devices actually dispensed represents a wide inventory (1088 distinct items).
- By far, the highest number of prescription claims were paid for the antiasthmatic albuterol metered-dose inhalers (160 paid claims, combining claims for three different manufacturers' products).

