

Pharmacy Providers Severe Weather Events

Due to changes in the climate, severe weather events, including extreme heat and humidity are becoming more common. These severe weather events can result in prolonged power outages and extreme temperatures which may affect the safety and stability of pharmaceutical products at community and hospital pharmacies.

Community and hospital pharmacies should prepare for power outages with backup plans and protocols for the handling of time and temperature-sensitive pharmaceutical products (TTSPPs). These policies should maximize preparedness and ensure the safety and stability of pharmaceuticals in the event of future power outages.

Drug Storage:

- Medicaid Pharmacy manual, section, *Storage Requirements – Vaccine and Medication*. [Pharmacy_Policy_Guidelines.pdf \(emedny.org\)](#)
- New York State Education Department, Office of the Professions. Part 63(b)(3), regarding the storage of drugs. <https://www.op.nysed.gov/professions/pharmacist/laws-rules-regulations/part-63>
- Vaccine for Children (VFC) program guidance regarding monitoring cold storage. [Temperature Monitoring Requirements](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vaccine storage and handling. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/index.html>

Drug Delivery:

Providers offering delivery must implement and operate a distribution and delivery system that reflects “best practices”.

- Medicaid Pharmacy manual, section, *Delivery*. [Pharmacy_Policy_Guidelines.pdf \(emedny.org\)](#)

Prior Authorization:

Some prescribers may adjust working hours or close early due to the heat. When, in the judgment of the prescriber or the pharmacist, an emergency condition exists, the prescriber or pharmacist can call the Clinical Call center and obtain authorization for a 72-hour emergency supply of the drug prescribed to allow time for the prior authorization to be obtained.

Pharmacists may utilize the worksheet found here:

https://newyork.fhsc.com/downloads/providers/NYRx_PA_emergency_supply_pharmacy_worksheet.pdf, and then call the NYRx Clinical Call Center at 1-877-309-9493.