

# HURRICANE FLORENCE PREPARATION

From The North Carolina Board of Pharmacy

## STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED IN NORTH CAROLINA IN ADVANCE OF HURRICANE FLORENCE

<https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO51%20-%20Declaration%20of%20State%20of%20Emergency.pdf>

Governor Cooper has declared a state of emergency for North Carolina in anticipation of potential severe weather caused by the approach of Hurricane Florence. The North Carolina Board of Pharmacy reminds pharmacy owners, pharmacy managers, and persons-in-charge of DME businesses to ready their disaster plans for the preservation of records, medications and other inventory. Additionally, pharmacies use Rule .1815 (detailed below) to provide emergency prescription refills. Joshua Kohler, NCBOP Director of Investigations is your contact for questions: (919) 246-1050 x231 or (919) 698-1435.

Additionally, please see the NC Department of Insurance's 9/10/18 bulletin reminding health benefit plans of compliance requirements for operations under a state of emergency for purposes of obtaining extra prescriptions during a state of emergency or disaste:

<http://www.ncbop.org/PDF/InsuranceBulletinHurricaneFlorenceSept2018.pdf>

## 21 NCAC 46 .1815 EMERGENCY PRESCRIPTION REFILL DUE TO INTERRUPTION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

In the event a pharmacist or device and medical equipment permit holder receives a request for a prescription refill and the pharmacist or permit holder is unable to readily obtain refill authorization from the prescriber because of the prescriber's inability to provide medical services to the patient, the pharmacist or permit holder may dispense a one-time emergency supply of up to 90 days of the prescribed medication, provided that:

1. The prescription is not for a Schedule II controlled substance;
2. The medication is essential to the maintenance of life or to the continuation of therapy in a chronic condition;
3. In the pharmacist's or permit holder's professional judgment, the interruption of therapy might reasonably produce undesirable health consequences;
4. The dispensing pharmacist or permit holder creates a written order entered in the pharmacy's automated data processing system containing all of the prescription information required by Section .2300 of these Rules and signs that order;
5. The dispensing pharmacist or permit holder notifies, or makes a good faith attempt to notify, the prescriber or the prescriber's office of the emergency dispensing within 72 hours after such dispensing.

