

Committee: Western New York State Chapter of Health-system Pharmacists
Topic: Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation of National Drug Shortages

Sponsored: Nicole Cieri-Hutcherson, Tyler Bedard, Rachael Cardinal, Richard Rovelli, Jennifer Stanton

Whereas, unexpected events, such as natural disasters, such as hurricane Maria's in Puerto Rico in September, 2017, may affect drug and medical equipment manufacturing and distribution, and,

Whereas, pharmaceutical products made in Puerto Rico account for nearly 10 percent¹ of all drugs consumed by Americans and,

Whereas, only 55 percent of the Puerto Rican power grid has been restored four months following the disaster², and,

Whereas, medical equipment (including intravenous bags, saline solution, and plastic tubing) made in Puerto Rico is under strict allocation due to damage to manufacturing infrastructure four months following the disaster and,

Whereas, the effects of hurricane Maria in relation to drug shortages are still being seen at a national level four months following the disaster and,

Whereas, similar unexpected catastrophes may occur in the future and lead to similar levels of drug shortages on a national level,

Whereas, the prolonged decrease in accessibility of drugs and medical equipment greatly affects the standard of care that can be provided to patients and thus may result in more negative outcomes compared to when those standards are met,

Whereas, standard therapeutic substitutions may help alleviate drug and medical equipment shortages due to natural disasters and provide a standardized level of care to patients across health systems³; now therefore, be it

Resolved That:

The New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists supports national pharmacist standardization of therapeutic substitutions in times of crisis to provide an equal quality of care between healthcare systems.^{3,4}

Date February 2, 2018

By: Nicole Cieri-Hutcherson Tyler Bedard Rachael Cardinal
Nicole Cieri-Hutcherson, PharmD Tyler Bedard Rachael Cardinal
Richard Rovelli Jennifer Stanton
Richard Rovelli Jennifer Stanton

- 1) "Statement from FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D. on FDA's continued assistance following the natural disaster in Puerto Rico." USFDA (2017) <https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm579493.htm> (Web)
- 2) Robles F, Bidgood J. "Three Months After Maria, Roughly Half of Puerto Ricans Still Without Power." The New York Times (2017) <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/29/us/puerto-rico-power-outage.html> (Web)
- 3) "Drug Shortages Continue to Compromise Patient Care." Institute for Safe Medication Practice (2018) <http://www.ismp.org/newsletters/acutecare/showarticle.aspx?id=1185> (Web)
- 4) Hegwer LR, "Taking Action Against Drug Shortages" Healthcare Financial Management Association (2016) http://www.hfma.org/Leadership/Archives/2016/Summer/Taking_Action_Against_Drug_Shortages/ (Web)