

**Title:** Medications and Durable Medical Equipment For Emergency Planners  
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**Abstract:** Medications and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) For Emergency Planners

**Introduction:** The need for DME during emergencies occurs mainly in persons with disabilities including individuals in the community with physical, mental, or medical care needs that may require assistance before, during, and/or after a disaster or emergency after exhausting their usual resources and support network. Most individuals will bring their assistive device with them, but the presence in shelters of some basic DME and resources to support technology used by individuals with disabilities allows those who are self-directing with those devices to remain independent, more easily communicated with, and helps prevent the need for diversion to special facilities.

Medications are necessary for many individuals to remain medically stable, and general community emergency shelters need to have available the basic resources to support individuals who take injectables (e.g. insulin in diabetes) as well as secure storage for medications that need refrigeration. Emergency planners need to identify community sources of medical supplies and medication close to shelters that would be available during any prolonged emergency.

Both DME and Medication availability helps promote a level of independence for certain individuals that allows a more normal level of function and better integration into community disaster planning, including emergency shelters, and the requirements necessary to make them available should be incorporated at every level of disaster planning. Any exercises or drills should include people with disabilities and should incorporate any equipment or assistive devices that they require.

**Methods:** In a short presentation we will develop the basic method for screening individuals with special needs for DME and medication to special purpose shelters, and then develop what DME supplies are necessary to accommodate individuals with disabilities into general emergency shelters as well as the basic resources needed to accommodate medication use.

**Purpose:** This session will emphasize the basic requirements necessary that will make DME and Medication available during community emergencies. The emphasis will be on what is necessary in regular community shelters to avoid the expense and chaos of diversion to special purpose medical facilities for individuals who can remain independent and self directing with some simple DME and resources to accommodate medication use.

### **Pre-Conference Activities:**

1. Become familiar with the emergency planning issues around DME and Medication by reviewing material I developed for a conference on emergency preparedness for individuals with disability - National Consensus Conference\_Technology\_DME\_Medication\_FINAL.doc
  - Learn about the technology used by individuals with disabilities to better understand what is necessary to support that technology in general community shelters by studying those listed in **Appendix A and B**.
  - Become familiar with what DME is by reviewing Medicare covered and non-covered categories of DME **Appendix C**.
2. Review the draft guidelines on DME and Medications for individuals with disabilities from a recent conference, National Consensus Conference Technology DME Medication DRAfT Guidelines.doc.
3. Review the FEMA Train the Trainer Presentation on “Emergency Planning and Special Needs – Introduction” for a full appreciation of all the areas in emergency planning that are affected by this population.