The attached protocols for the Maryland Board of Pharmacy may only be activated when a state of emergency has been declared by the governor of Maryland and/or the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The Maryland Board of Pharmacy will update its website and utilize other communication avenues to broadcast when these protocols are in effect.

**DHMH Emergency Protocols**

For the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to effectively respond to an emergency, certain protocols are available to the Governor, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or designee for implementation.

**PRE-EVENT SECRETARY DIRECTIVES**

**.01 Public Health Facility**

A Public Health Facility is a location designated by the Secretary or Local Health Officer to render clinical health services and to distribute medication to the public under a declared or undeclared emergency.

A licensed medical professional, including licensed physicians, licensed dentists, licensed podiatrists, or certified nurse practitioners are authorized to provide medical oversight at a designated public health facility. Medical oversight will be available when onsite supervision is unavailable.

Vaccination-certified, licensed pharmacists are authorized to provide vaccination oversight at a public health facility.

.**02** **Public Health Formulary**

Medications to be distributed at a public health facility site should include medications deemed by the Secretary as the appropriate treatment response as determined by CDC under the declared or undeclared emergency.

**.03 Distribution of Pharmaceuticals**

During a period of a declared emergency, a licensed distributor may operate as conditions will permit as long as the integrity of the medications and supplies is maintained and the security is sufficient to protect the safety of personnel and medications/supplies.

In order for the citizens of Maryland to have access to medications and supplies in a timely manner during an emergency, a pharmacy may transfer inventory and/or patient information to another pharmacy, clinic, or other dispensing site as necessary.

In order to assure that the entire population of Maryland could be supplied with emergency medications and supplies, a licensed distributor may ship emergency medications and supplies to DHMH pre-approved sites as long as:

1. Storage conditions are adequate to ensure the integrity of the medication,

2. Area is sufficiently secured so as to be accessible by only authorized personnel and to ensure the safety of the emergency medications and supplies, and

3. An accurate inventory is kept and reported to DHMH weekly, or as determined by DHMH.

**DURING EVENT GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER**

When the Governor of Maryland operates under a declared state of emergency or under an undeclared emergency, the following emergency protocols are available to incorporate into an Executive Order as needed.

**. 04 Pharmacy Dispensing**

A. Pharmacists are authorized to dispense, or cause to be dispensed, a one-time emergency

prescription of at least a 14 day course of medication if:

The patient’s prescriber is unknown, or known but cannot be reached

The pharmacist acts on good faith when dispensing the medication(s)

In the pharmacist’s professional opinion, the medication is essential to the maintenance of life

or to the continuation of therapy

The pharmacist makes a good faith effort to reduce the information to a form that may be

maintained for the time and in the matter required by law or regulation

The pharmacist makes a good faith effort, if possible, to inform the patient’s physician regarding the medication dispensed after the emergency.

The pharmacist is authorized to perform therapeutic substitution within the same class if a

certain medication is not available

B. The pharmacist is permitted to complete a one-time only refill of a patient’s prescription without

physician approval. The quantity dispensed, not to exceed a 30-day supply, should be based on the available supply and the pharmacist’s professional judgment.

C. Pharmacists are permitted to reduce the standard drug labeling to minimally include the following

information regarding the dispensed drug:

Name of medication

Strength

Dosage form

Dosage/Directions

Lot number and expiration date (if not already included on the packaging)

**05. Pharmacist Administration of Vaccines**

During a declared emergency, a vaccination-certified pharmacist may administer vaccinations:

1. Without a signed vaccination protocol with the authorization of the Secretary or his

representative

2. To patients age 13 and older

**06. Pharmacy Emergency Dispensing Facility**

During an emergency, a licensed pharmacist may operate a pharmacy or other site for the purpose of dispensing medications and supplies to the citizens without the requirements of permits, licenses or registrations as long as:

Pharmacists’ licenses and technician registrations/certifications are determined to be in good

standing by:

1. Verification with NABP,

2. Via the state that issued the license or registration, or

3. In the event that these verification mechanisms are unavailable, through visual

inspection of a licensee’s/registrant’s license or registration certificate.

A pharmacist may provide any pharmaceutical service to any segment of the population as long as the service is within the pharmacist’s area of training and the dispensing site has the necessary equipment for the preparation of the medication.

A pharmacist may assign duties to personnel as long as:

The pharmacist determines that the personnel have the necessary training (or provides just-in-

time training) to allow the personnel to perform the assigned tasks as directed

The pharmacist verifies the accuracy of the completed tasks