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Governor Hutchinson, Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy and Arkansas Pharmacists Association Partner to Issue Prescription Medication Guidance for Hurricane Harvey Evacuees

Little Rock, AR - Governor Asa Hutchinson, in cooperation with the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy and the Arkansas Pharmacists Association, issued guidance that newly passed Arkansas Act 282 of 2017, which allows for emergency refills of prescription medications, is applicable to evacuees of Hurricane Harvey.

Act 282 of 2017, sponsored by Senator Lance Eads and Representative Clint Penzo, allows pharmacists to dispense a one-time emergency refill of maintenance prescription medications if, in the pharmacist's professional judgement, the interruption of therapy might reasonably produce undesirable health consequences. Governor Hutchinson further clarified that prescriptions for controlled substances should not be filled in an emergency manner.

"Through tornadoes, floods, and disasters, Arkansans have shown time after time that when tragedy strikes, we help in every way we can," Governor Hutchinson said. "Now, as our neighbors from Texas face unthinkable destruction, we offer our help to try to ease the burden of evacuees that may be coming to Arkansas with just the clothes on their back."

John Kirtley, Pharm.D., Executive Director of the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy, echoed the governor's sentiments saying "Pharmacists are on the front lines of dealing with these displaced patients and we are pleased to be able to assist during this difficult time."

Scott Pace, Pharm.D., J.D., CEO of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA), further agreed with the governor and the Board stating "APA has received calls from all over Arkansas from pharmacists trying to take care of displaced evacuees and we are grateful to the governor and the Board of Pharmacy for working with us in such an expeditious way to make sure that patients are taken care of."

Hurricane Harvey was a category four hurricane that has devastated Houston and the southern coast of Texas. It is the first major hurricane to make landfall in the United States since 2005 and has killed at least 16 people, displaced 30,000 people, and has caused devastating flooding in 50 Texas counties.

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