



State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Public Health

December 2014

From: Leah Michael
Pharmacy Director
DHH/ Office of Public Health

To: Hospital Pharmacy Director

RE: FY 2014-2015 Hospital Grant

This letter is to remind you that it is important for your hospital to have a sufficient quantity of antibiotics to provide prophylax in an anthrax event. As HPP Grant funds decrease, hospitals should consider availability of these medications in their supply chain, treatment protocols and facility plans and procedures to determine the size of cache needed for the organization.

It is recommended that hospitals maintain a cache of antibiotics to prophylax their average daily census (ADC) multiplied by two. Medication in the cache may be used for inpatients, staff and/or family members. Hospitals should incorporate CDC guidance in their organizational policies and plans for dispensing these medications to the appropriate vulnerable population at the time of an event.

HPP Funds may be used to replace expired drugs after the hospital has met the FY2014-2015 priorities detailed in the participation agreement. With prior permission, HPP funds may be used to purchase other medications to support response to CBRNNE (Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive) events such as Potassium Iodide (KI), atropine or 2-PAM (Protopam). Funds may also be used to develop or maintain a cache in support of the region's medical special needs shelter.

Louisiana participates in the CHEMPACK program and has placed thirty (30) containers across the state. Each CHEMPACK container has a buffer pack that can be used for the treatment of 3 to 5 persons, thus conserving the assets in the CHEMPACK containers when needed for a large scale event. The buffer packs are state property and are maintained by DHH-OPH Pharmacy Services. Hospitals are encouraged to continue to be involved in the local regional CHEMPACK planning. This will assure that your hospital's emergency department will understand how to access the antidotes in case of an emergency involving a nerve agent or organophosphate exposure. Please contact me or Designated Regional Coordinator if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Leah Michael, RPh
Director DHH OPH Pharmacy Services