

INFORMATION FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCY PATIENTS

The following information should be supplied by the home health agency to those patients registered with the special needs registry, so they will be prepared prior to an evacuation to a special needs shelter.

Please note: The special needs shelter should be used as a place of last refuge. The evacuee may not receive the same level of care received from staff in the home, and the conditions in a shelter might be stressful.

(1) A caregiver should accompany sheltered individuals for the duration of their stay.

(2) Special needs patients need to bring the following during an evacuation:

- Bed sheets, blankets, pillow, folding lawn chair, air mattress
- The patient's medication (including refrigerated medication), supplies and equipment list supplied by the home health agency, including the phone, beeper and emergency numbers for the patient's physician, pharmacy and, if applicable, oxygen supplier; supplies and medical equipment for the patient's care; Do Not Resuscitate (DNRO) form
- Name and phone number of the patient's home health agency
- Prescription and non-prescription medication and oxygen for at least 7 days
- A copy of the patient's plan of care, credit cards, cash etc
- Important papers: Identification, medical history, insurance (home, rental, medical, etc)
- Special diet items, non-perishable food for 7 days & 1 gallon of water per person per day
- Glasses, hearing aids and batteries, prosthetics, and any other assistive devices
- Personal hygiene items including diapers and toileting items for elderly and disabled person for 7 days
- Extra clothing for 7 days
- Flashlight and batteries
- Self-entertainment and recreational items, like books, magazines, and quiet games.

(3) Shelterees need to know the following:

- Shelterees are not for isolation patients or people who need 24-hour dedicated care, a hospital bed, ventilator, or other complex care.
- If the patient has a caregiver, the caregiver(s) shall be allowed to shelter together in the special needs shelter. If the person with special needs is responsible for the care of individuals without special needs, those persons may also shelter together.
- The shelteree caregiver will have floor space provided. The caregiver must provide his or her own bedding.
- Service dogs are allowed in the shelter. However, check with your local Emergency Management office to see if other pets are permitted.
- Bring personal snacks, drinks, and any special dietary foods for 7 days. It is possible only sparse meals will be provided.
- Caregivers who regularly assist the patient in the home are expected to continue to do the same care in the shelter.