



# Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) Program



## A National Repository of Life-Saving Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies

The mission of CDC's National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) Program is to ensure the availability of life-saving pharmaceuticals, antidotes and other medical supplies and equipment necessary to counter the effects of nerve agents, biological pathogens and chemical agents. The NPS Program stands ready for immediate deployment to any U.S. location in the event of a terrorist attack using a biological, toxin or chemical agent directed against a civilian population.

The NPS is not one but multiple, large, packages of drugs, vaccines, medical supplies, and medical equipment that exist to augment depleted state and local re-sources for responding to terrorist attacks and other emergencies. These packages are stored in strategic locations around the U.S. to ensure rapid delivery anywhere in the country.

Following the federal decision to deploy, the NPS will typically arrive by air or ground in two phases. The first phase shipment is called a 12-hour Push Package. “12” because it will arrive in 12-hours or less, “push” because a state need only ask for help—not for specific items, and “package” because the Program will ship a complete package of medical materiel—to include nearly everything a state will need to respond to a broad range of threats.

Also available are inventory supplies known as Vendor Managed Inventory, or VMI packages. VMI packages can be tailored to provide pharmaceuticals, supplies and/or products specific to the suspected or confirmed agent or combination of agents.

A CDC team of five or six technical advisors will also deploy at the same time as the first shipment. Known as a Technical Advisory Response Unit (TARU), this team is comprised of pharmacists, emergency responders, and logistics experts that will advise local authorities on receiving, distributing, dispensing, replenishing, and recovering NPS materiel.

The NPS Program was tested in a real-life terrorist attack in response to the tragic events of September 11th when New York State and local officials requested large quantities of medical materiel and logistical assistance. With the support of local and state public health and emergency response officials, all facets of the New York operation performed exactly as intended. The NPS Program has also assisted many states and cities by providing pharmaceutical and logistical support to areas affected by the anthrax attacks in October and November 2001.

## Key Activities of the NPS Program:

- Procurement and management of NPS Inventory;
- Ensuring rapid transport of NPS assets in response to a biological and/or chemical terrorism incident;
- Coordination with state, local and Federal emergency responders;
- Provision of CDC technical consultants to accompany pharmaceuticals to the area of need;
- Operational research and program evaluation; and
- Education and training for state, local and Federal partners.



## For further information, contact:

The NPS Program at 404-639-0459