

In certain situations, particularly in rural environments, the facility's primary pharmacy provider may be located hours from the facility. Thus, in order to cover for after-hours emergencies, it may be necessary for the facility to arrange for services through a local secondary pharmacy provider to obtain some emergency medications. However, the majority of emergency medications could be readily obtained from a well-organized emergency medication kit located within the facility.

Emergency Medication Kits in long term care facilities are generally restricted for "emergency use only", including serving as a source for "starter doses" for new orders or "stat orders" for various medications. However, the facility should guard against relying on the kit as a "backup" source for routine medications when staff fail to reorder medications on a timely basis.

Technically, Emergency Medication Kits are the property of the facility's primary pharmacy provider. The contents of the kit, however, should be determined based on the needs of the facility and be individualized and established through collaboration between the facility and the consultant pharmacist. Quantities of individual medications should be minimal, and PAR levels must be assigned and enforced, again based on the actual needs of the facility. A system must be in place addressing the removal of items from the kit, reporting the removals to the pharmacy, and the replacement of the items by the pharmacy.

As with all medications, the Emergency Medication Kit must be stored under locked security, and facility policy should define which individual staff are to have access to the kit; at least one such staff person should be present in the facility at all times.

Based on 902 KAR 55:070, Sec. 1 (4), provision has been made for the inclusion of a minimal number of controlled substances in Emergency Medication Kits. The regulation states "Controlled substances in the kit shall not exceed six (6) individual doses each of six (6) different controlled substances". Again, choices should be made as the result of collaboration between the facility and consultant pharmacist. Choices may be made to include various formulations, such as oral, injectable, transdermal, etc. As with all controlled substances, those items assigned to the emergency kit must have provision for double-lock security. As a result, some facilities elect to store controlled substances assigned to the Emergency Medication Kit within the double-locked narcotic drawer of a medication cart. Refer to 902 KAR 55:070 for additional requirements pertaining to controlled substances included in Emergency Medication Kits.