



Healthcare Ready landscape study examines state-managed medication stockpiles

Most states lack the necessary resources and funding to develop comprehensive pharmaceutical reserves.

WASHINGTON (June 12, 2024) – A recent study by [Healthcare Ready](#), a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring patient access to health care in times of disasters, and funded by the [Cencora Impact Foundation](#), an independent not-for-profit charitable giving organization established by Cencora to support health-related causes that enrich the global community, examines the current landscape surrounding state-managed medication stockpiles. Such stockpiles, or pharmaceutical reserves, can help protect communities by providing a means of ensuring rapid access to essential medications during an emergency event.

Developed and managed extensively across states and U.S. territories during the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious disease threats, state-managed medication stockpiles are a potentially vital pathway for supporting equitable access to medicines among historically medically underserved communities.

“There’s a lot of misunderstanding in the field surrounding the purpose and intent of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS),” says Tom Cotter, MPH, executive director of Healthcare Ready. “The SNS was neither intended to, nor is capable of, operating as a standalone solution to all emerging threats in the healthcare supply chain, such as drug shortages. In the absence of a cohesive federal response to patient care impacts caused by drug shortages, states are looking to supply their own response—which could have unintended consequences themselves.”

Research involved more than 20 discussions with public and private sector leaders with expertise from state public health departments, medical countermeasure distribution within states, patient delivery systems; and review of current and past experiences and state-policies related to state-managed medication stockpiles.

Key findings from the landscape study include that most states lack the resources needed to develop comprehensive, physical state-managed stockpiles. Some states, however, are taking proactive measures with actions sometimes being led by governors and elected officials to explore stockpiling of certain essential medicines. Other states are closely monitoring these efforts to inform their own strategies.

Additional key findings include:

- **There are unclear statutory responsibility for drug shortages and lack of funding**

- **Equity is a driving factor for states to develop stockpiles**
- **Private sector stakeholders are concerned about** the broader implications of the perceived risk of creating unwanted surpluses or shortages.

For more information, please visit Healthcare Ready's website [here](#).

Contact: Laura Perillo
Media Rep for Good Causes
Representing: [Healthcare Ready](#)
(908) 406-3413, laura@shoestringagency.org

Special note to journalists: Healthcare Ready's associate director of programs and policy, [Angie Im](#), is available to serve as a subject matter expert. Please contact Laura Perillo to request an interview.

About Healthcare Ready

Healthcare Ready is a nonprofit organization that serves as a public-private nexus to prevent patient care disruptions amid crises. We do this by forging partnerships and serving as the linkage point between the healthcare supply chain and government. By working with supply chain stakeholders, emergency management, patient advocacy groups, and community-based organizations, we help safeguard patients before, during, and after crises by leveraging our core capabilities. For more information, visit healthcareready.org or on Twitter [@HC_Ready](#).

About the Cencora Impact Foundation

The Cencora Impact Foundation aims to improve the health and well-being of its patient populations – both human and animal – by investing in its communities. Through strategic partnerships and community collaboration, the Foundation works to expand access to quality healthcare, and provide resources to ensure prescription drug safety. For more information, visit <https://www.cencora.com/our-impact/cencora-impact-foundation>