

Q&A Access to Avian Flu vaccines and Medications

Question:

What happens during a public health emergency such as an avian flu epidemic, will beneficiaries need to use a network pharmacy for urgent access to necessary medications?

Answer:

During any state or federal disaster declaration, or other public health emergency declaration in which beneficiaries are evacuated or otherwise displaced from their place of residence and cannot be reasonably be expected to obtain covered Part D drugs at a network pharmacy, Part D plans are required to assure that their enrollees have adequate access to drugs dispensed at out-of-network pharmacies. In addition, in circumstances where normal distribution channels are unavailable, Part D plans are expected to liberally apply their out of network policies to facilitate access to medications.