

# CLOSED PODs and the PUSH

# Defining the Problem

- Public Health Emergencies
  - Bio-terrorism (anthrax)
  - Pandemic influenza
- Roles in preparedness
  - Local Public Health MUST take care of their population in a public health emergency
  - ADPH coordinates planning, training, and responding to public health emergencies



# What is a Closed Pod?

Any facility or business can be a Closed POD.

This is what becoming a Closed POD entails:

- Working with ADPH to develop a Closed POD plan for your facility
- Training staff within your facility to conduct Closed POD operations
- Working with ADPH during POD exercises
- Being ready to accept medication during a public health emergency, and pass that medication along to staff, employees and/or dependents



# Closed Pod ADPH Responsibilities

- Develop guidelines to ensure safe dispensing of medication
- Assist in development of organization's Closed POD plan
- Provide all medication and accompanying information sheets for dispensing
- Provide training and exercise support
- Provide tools, templates and ongoing technical assistance



# Your Responsibilities

- Have MOU or on-line registration with ADPH
- Designate liaisons to coordinate
- Develop a Closed POD plan
  - Determine dispensing location(s)
  - Develop procedures
    - Activation and recall procedures
    - Security planning
    - Receipt of medication
    - Dispensing procedures
- Provide professional staff
- Provide non-medical supplies
- Participate in training and exercise opportunities
- Operate a Closed POD during an emergency



# Your Plan – You *Do* Have One?

Plan NOW! See “Bryant’s Rule”

- Have a Plan
- Work your plan
- Plan for the unexpected

“To Fail to plan is the greatest moral failure and assures that failure is imminent.”



Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant

# Plan Must Include

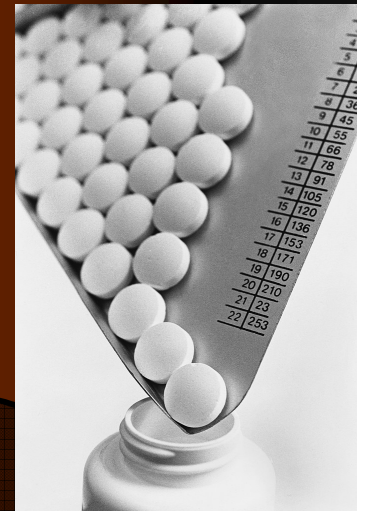
- A medical director, not necessarily on-scene
- Designation of how supplies would be received, stored in accord with manufacturers specs and distributed
- Meds labeled according to clinic protocol per medical direction
- Who would be authorized to dispense
- Pharmacy might be different rules





# The Big Q: Who Can Dispense?

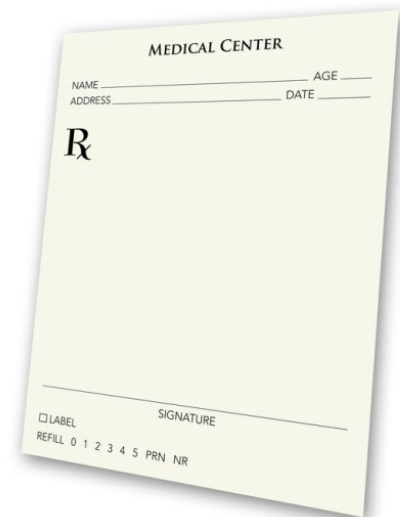
- Dispensing : “sell, distribute, administer, leave with, give away, dispose of, deliver, or supply a drug or med. to the ultimate user or agent”
- Assuming no Governor’s Proclamation:
  - MDs
  - Pharmacists
  - Public Health RNs in limited situations
- Assuming a Proclamation:
  - Any RN
  - Perhaps other qualified persons





# Standing Orders of Health Officer?

- The Health Officer, as a physician, may issue standing orders under three conditions:
  - May be carried out by RNs under his control
  - Must be “his” patients (IE., ADPH patients)
  - Cannot conflict with state law
- Won't Work with Closed Pods



MEDICAL CENTER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Rx

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

☐ LABEL  
REFILL 0 1 2 3 4 5 PRN NR

# Dispensing Under a Proclamation



"I further direct and authorize that the plans for distribution of the items maintained in the closed pods are to be dispensed as directed by the designated persons, or distributed pursuant to any Emergency Use Authorization for prescription medications issued by the Food and Drug Administration"

# Volunteers

- Commercial Closed Pods will likely not be using volunteers
- Non-Commercial Pods likely will be using volunteers.
- Volunteers will have certain immunities
  - Volunteer Service Act
  - Perhaps the Good Samaritan Act
  - Title 31 Immunity



# Questions?

