



Closed Point of Dispensing Planning Overview

Closed Point of Dispensing

In the event of a public health emergency, such as bioterrorism, the entire population may require medication within a thirty-six-hour period. While this risk is remote, the consequence of not having a plan would be catastrophic if it did occur.

Points of Dispensing (PODs) are locations organized by local public health where medication will be given to people to prevent disease in response to these public health threats. There are Open and Closed PODs for distribution of medication, the majority of the population would receive medication at an Open POD. A Closed POD is a location operated by a private organization that distributes medicine or medical supplies to a specific group of people, such as that organization's staff, staff family members, and/or clients. Clients can include residential clients, patients of a medical facility, guests at a hotel, students, parishioners, inmates, etc. Closed PODs are NOT open to the public at-large and they cannot charge for the medication they provide.

Being a Closed POD is beneficial in several ways. It is expected that in an emergency, medical providers, such as hospitals and clinics, will be overwhelmed. Closed PODs offer the ability to directly receive medication that will allow for continuity of business as well as minimize the impact of the public health emergency on staff, their families, and your clients. Closed PODs offers a level of safety and security customized to meet your organization's needs.

Closed POD Plan Responsibilities

If your organization would like to become a Closed POD, you will be responsible for developing, with assistance from your local public health agency, a Closed POD plan that follows the Minnesota Department of Health's Closed POD guidance. To help you with this process the following tools are available from local public health.

Closed Point of Dispensing (POD) Plan Template

Closed POD Enrollment Form

- Complete Closed Point of Dispensing Partner Enrollment Form and submit to your local public health agency.

Closed POD Plan

- The Closed POD Plan can be used as a planning template to guide the development of your Closed POD plan. Your local public health department can assist with this process. This outlines the minimum requirements for Closed POD plans as defined by Minnesota Department of Health.

Closed POD Forms Book

- This document contains templates useful for developing the Closed POD plan and the forms needed to operate the Closed POD.

What to Expect from Local Public Health

Local Public Health will be available to assist with any questions regarding the creation of the Closed POD plan and will provide:

1. Yearly reminders about keeping Closed POD contact info updated
 2. Opportunities to train, drill, and exercise your Closed POD operations with peers in your jurisdiction
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