



## Medication

Many individuals in the HIV/AIDS population are required to take multiple medications. It is vital that these individuals maintain at least a 1-week supply of medication. Remember that immediately after the storm many pharmacies and physician's offices are not open. Hospitals cannot be used as outpatient pharmacies—it is illegal for them to dispense medication beyond what is needed while a person is hospitalized. They cannot give refills on medication or fill your current prescriptions. If you do run out of one or more of your antiretroviral medications (HIV meds) it is best to stop **all** of them until you are able to refill them.

**Some people choose not to evacuate because no shelter accepts their animals. This puts their well being at risk.**



## Evacuation and Pets

Many individuals, including those in the HIV/AIDS population, are very attached to their pets. As we saw during Hurricane Katrina, some people chose not to evacuate because no shelter accepted their animals. Pets become a vital part of our health and happiness, so it is understandable that we treat them like they are part of our family. Unfortunately at this time there are no shelters that are equipped to house animals. For individuals with pets who live in trailer homes or low-lying areas and need to evacuate, consider saving up enough money to stay in a local hotel for at least the day/night of the storm.

## Special Needs Shelters

In order for an individual to be placed in a special needs shelter the person would need to call that shelter and be screened for approval. Every shelter is ADA approved, but only those who meet certain eligibility criteria are able to stay in the "special needs shelter". Persons appropriate to be placed in these shelters: should be ambulatory (with or without assisting devices, or independent in the use of assisting devices), be accompanied by a caregiver, be dependent on nursing assistance for routine care (e.g. eating, walking, toileting, etc.), requires nursing assistance (medical care administration, assistance with medication monitoring), medically dependent on constant electrical power for medical equipment, can safely sleep on a cot or mat.

Should you have conditions that require more complex care, other arrangements need to be in place with your physician for admission to a hospital or nursing home. This includes infusion therapy, complex sterile dressing changes, hyperalimentation, medically complex oxygen dependent, IV chemotherapy, ventilator care, peritoneal dialysis, hemodialysis, life support equipment, hospital bed and total care.

