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Rx Response Expands Access to Disaster Preparedness and Response Services

Move Comes as Rx Response Receives Official Approval for 501(c)(3) Non Profit Status

Washington, D.C. - [Rx Response](#), the highly acclaimed initiative of the bio-pharmaceutical supply chain to help ensure the continued flow of medicine to patients in times of emergency, has established a new membership structure that will enable individual companies in the bio-pharmaceutical supply chain to become direct members.

The move opens the door for individual companies to enhance their disaster preparedness and response capabilities by tapping Rx Response's accurate and timely information, direct support during disasters, government relationships and industry networking. Individual supply chain companies that join Rx Response will also increase the program's situational awareness by providing a broader source of reports about the impact of a disaster on the supply chain members.

Rx Response provides a platform through which the entire bio-pharmaceutical supply system can easily communicate to coordinate pre-disaster planning and post-disaster response. Rx Response also serves as a single point of contact through which government officials and supply chain members can liaise to share information and address challenges impacting the supply system.

"We're very excited to begin recruiting individual supply chain members to join Rx Response," said Rx Response Executive Director Erin Mullen, RPh, PhD, CEM. "Many of the companies we'll be talking with have already invested in disaster planning but their active involvement in Rx Response will significantly boost their readiness. It will also open new doors for them to work with federal and state officials who can help companies address challenges posed by large-scale disasters. At the same time, adding supply chain companies to our roster will significantly boost the situational awareness we can rely on in the supply chain and offer to our government partners. This will allow federal and state officials to make more informed decisions about where to direct resources in a disaster to help address any threats to the bio-pharmaceutical supply chain."

In addition to restructuring its membership, Rx Response also announced today that it has received official approval from the IRS for its application to become a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The approval will make it easier for Foundations, non-profit organizations and government agencies to provide grants to Rx Response. The 501(c)(3) designation will not change the operational components of the program and government officials will still be able to participate at no cost.

Since its inception in 2007, Rx Response has earned a reputation as an indispensable homeland security asset, gaining recognition from federal and state officials for its response to numerous disasters. Rx Response's actions following Hurricane Sandy earned praise from Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, who thanked Rx Response leaders for the program's post-Sandy actions.

Initial members of the newly formed Rx Response Board of Directors include Phyllis Arthur, MBA, Senior Director for Vaccines, Immunotherapeutics, and Diagnostics Policy, Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO); Perry Fri, Executive Vice President of Industry Relations, Membership & Education for the Healthcare Distribution Management Association (HDMA); Kathleen Jaeger, Senior Vice President for Pharmacy Care and Patient Advocacy for the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) and President of the NACDS Foundation; Mary Lockyear, Manager of Disaster Health Services for the American Red Cross; Del Persinger, Executive Vice President and CFO of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA); Christine Simmon, Senior Vice President, Policy & Strategic Alliances for the Generic Pharmaceutical Association of America (GPhA); and Erin Mullen, RPh, PhD, CEM, Executive Director of Rx Response.

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