



Jeb Bush  
Governor

John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.  
Secretary

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CONTACT: TIM O'CONNOR  
561-722-6017 355-3576

**HURRICANE FRANCES UPDATE  
PHYSICIANS/HOSPITALS ADVISED TO UPDATE PATIENT PRESCRIPTIONS**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**—The Palm Beach County Health Department and Palm Beach County Medical Society have issued an advisory to area physicians and hospitals to update all patients prescriptions to a minimum additional two-week supply.

“In the interest of being prepared for hurricane Ivan and to avoid the shortages we have been experiencing with prescription medications, and oxygen supplies, since Frances, the health department is asking patients to contact their physician and request a prescription for at least two additional weeks of any needed medications. Additionally, we are asking doctors and hospitals to issue these supplies,” said Health Director Jean Malecki, M.D.

On Wednesday health officials had secured companies willing to replenish needed oxygen bottles and found many area pharmacies open and ready to serve the needs of patients who were on their last day of supplies. Additionally, there are eight dialysis centers open from North Broward County to Jupiter.

Health Officials are also asking those individuals that are oxygen dependent to contact their suppliers and refill all oxygen bottles and order a reserve in case they are needed next week.

The special care unit at the South Florida Fairgrounds has been closed for cleaning and restocking of supplies.



Post Office Box 29 / 826 Evernia Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33402  
Jean M. Malecki, MD, MPH, FACPM, Director  
[www.pbchd.com](http://www.pbchd.com)