May 23, 2013

To: NYS CHEMPACK Partners

From: Michael J. Primeau, Director, Office of Health Emergency Preparedness

The purpose of this letter is to inform all CHEMPACK partners of possible changes in their CHEMPACK distribution strategy that will be implemented during the June 2013 sustainment initiative. During the sustainment revised distribution strategy forms will be placed with each container and each attending pharmacist.

The changes are a result of a newly designed template that provides consistency in the use and order of colors (Red, Yellow, Blue, Green, and Orange) for distribution. A comprehensive review of the color coded partitions was also completed and adjustments made. Areas that have been addressed include:

- A standard template design
- Use of the color red to denote a hub hospital’s primary partition
- Use of the color green for EMS
- Changes in the amount and type of product in each color coded partition
- Spoke hospitals listed in order of size (left to right)
- Reduction of injectable drugs (vials) assigned to EMS partitions
- Increase of injectable drugs (vials) assigned to hospital partitions

An important consideration when reviewing the new distribution strategy form is the assignment of color codes as they may have been changed. No changes were made to existing hub-spoke relationships unless updates were necessary due to a change in operating status or closure of a facility.

The CHEMPACK container continues to be a forward deployed asset owned by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). No changes have been made to the type or total number of product in the container.

Hospital and County planners should disseminate this very important information to all appropriate partners. Hospital and County CHEMPACK Plans should be reviewed, updated and all staff should be made aware of this change. During this process please ensure it is understood that opening a CHEMPACK container should always be a medical decision to save lives.

Questions in reference to this notification should be directed to Ralph Iler or Patrick Russell at the NYSDOH Office of Health Emergency Preparedness Program. The office can be contacted at (518) 474-2893 or, ChemPackNY@notes.health.state.ny.us