



## **Five Things Cancer Patients Should Know When Evacuating**

It is important to be prepared for possible evacuation should a disaster strike in your community. In order for cancer patients to be prepared, it means more than safeguarding their home – it's also about ensuring that they still have access to their vital healthcare amenities and treatments.

A key challenge for cancer patients is finding alternative sites to receive cancer treatment if they evacuate from their homes. While cancer patients may continue their treatment at any Texas Oncology facility statewide, it is essential that cancer patients be prepared before they need to evacuate. The tips below include some important guidelines for cancer patients to follow in case they are forced to leave their communities.

### **TIP No. 1: TALK ABOUT IT**

Your doctor may be able to help provide a medical point of contact in the area you are planning to evacuate to and/or other organizations may be able to help you find alternative treatment facilities, such as Texas Oncology. It is also important for someone close to you – a family member, friend, neighbor – to know your whereabouts in case of emergency. If possible, provide this person with the address and phone number of the new location where you can be reached. It is also important to contact your doctor and advise him/her of your new location.

### **TIP No. 2: KNOW YOUR TREATMENTS – PAST AND PRESENT**

Work with your doctor to summarize your medical history in a simple document. Include your current medications and dosages, current and recent treatments, and other dietary and health needs. Store this information in a waterproof container and take it with you if you evacuate. Ask your doctor if you will need additional prescriptions to cover your evacuation time.

### **TIP No. 3: KNOW YOUR NUMBERS**

Keep handy the name of your doctor, his/her office address and phone number, as well as the contact information for alternative treatment facilities. In addition, record the name of your pharmacy and its phone number. Keep this information with your medical history, and if possible, store the phone numbers in your cell phone.

### **TIP No. 4: KNOW YOUR COVERAGE**

Know what insurance coverage you have in other communities and what doctors and medical facilities are available to you. Be sure to take your insurance card with you. Document ownership of any medical equipment in case it is lost or stolen. Keep this information with your medical records.

### **TIP No. 5: KNOW YOUR OPTIONS**

Identify an alternative facility where you can continue to receive treatment. Cancer care for displaced patients is available at any of the 98 Texas Oncology comprehensive cancer centers across the state. Patients who relocate to another community within Texas may call 1-888-864-I CAN (4226) or visit [www.TexasOncology.com](http://www.TexasOncology.com) to locate a nearby practice. Patients who relocate to another state may visit [www.usoncology.com](http://www.usoncology.com) to find a US Oncology network practice in their area.

Patients may use the disaster preparedness form on Texas Oncology's Web site, [www.TexasOncology.com](http://www.TexasOncology.com), to list all of their important information – emergency contacts, insurance information, physicians' contact information, medications, and helpful resources.

### **About Texas Oncology**

*Texas Oncology's comprehensive cancer centers provide diagnostics, medical oncology, radiation oncology, labs and pharmacies in one convenient, community-based facility. With more than 270 physicians and 98 total sites of service, Texas Oncology is the largest independent oncology practice nationwide and provides care to more Texans with cancer than any other cancer care provider. Texas Oncology uses the latest technology and participates with the largest network of clinical research trials nationally in order to provide high quality care in communities throughout the state.*

*Texas Oncology is a member of the US Oncology network, one of the nation's leading health services networks focused exclusively on cancer treatment and research. US Oncology is affiliated with 1,077 physicians practicing in 433 locations, including 90 radiation oncology facilities in 38 states.*