

Finally, the drug product is delivered to you. The drug supply system is a complex web that is not easily broken.

What are drug manufacturers doing to address Y2K issues?

A recent FDA survey and audit program confirms that the pharmaceutical industry will be ready for year 2000. Nearly all prescription drug manufacturers surveyed--including all of the top 20 research-based pharmaceutical firms--have Y2K plans in place and are working diligently to ensure an uninterrupted supply of pharmaceuticals.

What is being done to prevent problems caused by Y2K issues in the databases containing patient's histories?

Government, industry, hospitals, and pharmacies are making every effort to correct or replace existing systems with Y2K compliant hardware and software. Also, many medical records are kept in "paper-copy" and therefore will not be affected by potential computer problems associated with Y2K.

Is there a backup plan if something fails at the turn of the century?

Government and organizations within the supply system have backup plans in place and will continue to work together to further enhance backup planning for Y2K-specific issues. The drug supply system already has well-developed and tested emergency response plans in place to cope with the supply of products following hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, and other disasters.

Where can I go for continued updates on Y2K drug-related issues?

You can visit the following web sites:

<http://www.fda.gov/cder/y2k/>

<http://www.y2k.gov/>

Or you can call:

1-888-INFO-FDA

1-888-USA-4Y2K



Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research



Preparing for the

Year 2000 as it

Relates to My

Pharmaceutical Needs

Y2K

Frequently Asked Questions



What should I do to prepare for the Year 2000 as it relates to my pharmaceutical needs?

There are prudent steps that you can take to ensure that you are prepared for any medical situation at anytime, not just on January 1, 2000.

- **Make a list of prescription and important nonprescription medications you and your family are taking.**
- **It is advisable to refill medications when you have a 5-7 day supply remaining.**
- **Create a personal health record for you and your family.**
- **Keep records of your insurance claims.**
- **Carry your insurance card with you.**



What is being done so that I will not have difficulty getting my prescription filled during the first few weeks of the Year 2000?

Government agencies and organizations within the pharmaceutical industry supply system have been working closely together to prepare for the Year 2000 date change and its potential impact on the supply of pharmaceuticals. Backup plans have been developed to ensure multiple paths of distribution for pharmaceuticals.



Will I be able to get enough of my medications?

The Year 2000 should not affect your ability to receive your normal supply of medications. The industry typically operates with an average 90-day supply

in the distribution system among manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies. If you have questions about your individual supply, it is recommended that you speak with your doctor or pharmacist.

Do I need to have additional supplies of my prescription medications on hand?

It is advisable to get a normal refill of your medication when you have a 5 to 7 day supply of medication remaining. The supply system is resilient and can correct issues that might arise within 5 to 7 days.

Who, besides my pharmacist and the manufacturer, is involved in providing my medications?

The raw materials flow to the pharmaceutical manufacturer who uses them to make the drugs you need. Drug wholesalers and distributors move the drugs from manufacturers to your pharmacy.

