

Chempack, MERC and SNS (DIS M-23) Policy Executive Summary

What is the Chempack and what is it used for?

- Chempack includes nerve agent antidotes and related medical supplies to respond to Sarin, Soman, Tabun or VX. It can also be used on victims with organophosphate contamination.
- 2 types of containers – hospital (treat 1,000 casualties) or EMS (treat 454 casualties). Upstate has both types, a hospital and EMS Chempack.
- CDC supported and forward deployed asset.

What is the Hub/Spoke concept?

Dividing a Hospital container's assets into 4 (or 5) **partitions** marked Red, Yellow, Blue, Green (and Orange) is a NYSDOH planning strategy that allows any emergency responder to quickly identify and remove predetermined quantities of antidotes and deliver them to any designated hospital Emergency Department or scene of release. In this way one central storage location (Hub) will support several (Spoke) hospitals in close proximity. ***This is known as the hub-and-spoke concept.*** A distribution key or legend, explaining the labeling will be posted on the door of the container.

When can the Chempack be used?

- March 2012 CDC approves opening *regardless* of number of casualties (nerve agent or organophosphate)

Who can open the Chempack?

- Centers for Disease Control
- New York State Department of Health
- Onondaga County Health Department Commissioner
- Onondaga County Office of Emergency Management
- Onondaga County Executive or Chairperson of the Onondaga County Legislature
- Hub and/or Spoke Hospital
- Attending Physician of ED (Downtown/Community Campuses)

What facilities are spokes of Upstate's Chempack?

SUNY Upstate at Community Campus

Where is the Chempack located?

SUNY Upstate Downtown Campus

Pharmacy's Role

Manage and provide oversight of Chempack assets.

Note: Associated costs of administered Chempack assets cannot be charged to the victim. The Chempack, MERC and SNS Policy DIS M-23 also includes request information and process related to the NYS Department of Health's Medical Emergency Response Cache (MERC) and the Strategic National Stockpile.