



2012 Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE) Strategy

FACT SHEET

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE) as the coordinating body for the federal agencies in charge of protecting the civilian population from potential adverse health impacts of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) agents and emerging infectious diseases through the use of medical countermeasures—medicines, devices, or other medical interventions that can lessen the harmful effects of these threats.

BUILDING ON PROGRESS AND EXPERIENCE

A periodic assessment of strategy and capabilities to advance national preparedness in light of changing scientific and fiscal circumstances is appropriate. To this end, HHS updates strategies and implementation plans for the PHEMCE every five years or more often if needed¹. Since the first PHEMCE strategy and implementation plan were released in 2007, critical medical countermeasures have been developed, acquired, and stockpiled for emergency use. Plans have been made across all levels of government to ensure these critical assets can be used effectively in an emergency. Additionally, experiences ranging from real public health emergencies to national-level exercises have presented opportunities for the PHEMCE to assess medical countermeasure preparedness planning and to reallocate resources based on lessons learned.

CORE PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIC GOALS

Above all, the PHEMCE mission and outputs must preserve and protect people's lives against a wide range of dangerous threats and do so as good stewards of the

taxpayer's dollars. These are the two core principles of the PHEMCE strategy. Standing on past progress and seeking to make the best use of available resources, the *2012 PHEMCE Strategy* establishes these strategic goals for the PHEMCE over the next five years:

- Identify, create, develop, manufacture, and procure critical medical countermeasures.
- Establish and communicate clear regulatory pathways to facilitate medical countermeasure development and use.
- Develop logistical and operational plans for optimized use of medical countermeasures at all levels of response.
- Address medical countermeasure gaps for all sectors of the American civilian population.

INVESTMENT PRIORITIZATION

In pursuit of these goals, all PHEMCE investments are prioritized against the following criteria: (1) addressing the most significant threats, (2) fostering approaches with the potential to provide protection against multiple important threats, and (3) maintaining the capability to effectively use the assets developed in the envisioned operational setting.

2012 PHEMCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The *2012 PHEMCE Implementation Plan*, to be released in summer 2012, will further describe the prioritization of programs based on these criteria. This strategy and the forthcoming implementation plan together provide the blueprints the PHEMCE will follow in the near, mid-, and long-terms to make the best use of available resources to enhance national health security.

¹Available at <http://www.phe.gov/phemce/strategy>