

# Charlotte County Special Needs Shelter

## What is a Special Needs Shelter (SpNS)?

When a major disaster threatens Charlotte County residents, medically dependent individuals may need to seek shelter where they can continue with their oxygen needs and where limited medical assistance can be provided. The special needs shelter will have medical staff on hand to assist with basic medical assistance.

It is important to keep in mind that a special needs shelter is a shelter of last resort. It is even more imperative that a person who has medical needs and cannot care for him or herself have a disaster plan to address his/her needs. Special needs shelter should only be relied upon as a back up to an already well thought out plan.



## Charlotte County Special Needs Shelter has limited availability and limited medical care.

In order to give the best care possible under the emergency circumstances, we do not accept people in the following categories into the shelter (this is not all inclusive):

- **Bedridden patients** — There are no hospital beds in the shelter. This is an emergency shelter with only low level cots.
- **Dialysis (Hemodialysis and Peritoneal)** — SpNS shelter does not have the staff or the proper equipment to support dialysis patients.
- **300+ pound** — Due to the capacity of the SpNS cots, we cannot accept patients 285 pounds and over.
- **Ventilator dependent** — SpNS shelter does not have the staff or the proper equipment to support ventilator dependent patients.
- **Third Trimester Pregnancy**
- **Patients requiring isolation (MRSA/TB)**
- **IV Therapy**
- **Wound Care**
- **Ostomy/Tube Feeding**



## What does a Special Needs Shelter offer?

A special needs shelter will provide shelterees:

- Basic food and water. If you are on a special diet, you will have to bring non-perishable food items with you.
- Basic medical assistance and monitoring will be available from qualified health care professionals; however, any advance medical care or equipment is not available.
- Back-up electricity and liquid oxygen will also be made available.
- Space for yourself and a caregiver.
- Space for service animals only. There are no other pets allowed. You must make arrangements for your pet prior to entering a special needs shelter.

*It is important that you work out the details of your care prior to an emergency situation. Whether you are planning to evacuate, shelter in place, or stay with a friend; family preparedness planning is the key to making sure that you are taken care of. Visit our preparedness site for more information on getting prepared:*

[www.CharlotteCHD.com](http://www.CharlotteCHD.com)



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Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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## Special Needs Shelter Requirements:

- If you have a mental illness, you must have an able-bodied caregiver with you or else you cannot stay at the shelter.
- You must have your medication with you in the shelter. You cannot be admitted without your life sustaining medications.
- If you are reliant on any medical equipment and do not come with them, you will not be admitted. We do not provide wheelchairs, walkers, and etc.

## What Clients Should Bring:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A list of your current medications            | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal care              | <input type="checkbox"/> Books              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At least a 3 day supply of the medications    | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing/undergarments     | <input type="checkbox"/> Magazines          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentation of specific medical information | <input type="checkbox"/> Socks/shoes (durable)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical equipment                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal hygiene items     | <input type="checkbox"/> Cards              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oxygen supplies                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap/shampoo/deodorant     | <input type="checkbox"/> Games              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nebulizers                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste/toothbrush      | <input type="checkbox"/> Infant care items  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canes/wheelchairs                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Brush/comb                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Formula            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes equipment                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Wash cloth/towel           | <input type="checkbox"/> Food               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glucose meter/strips                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag               | <input type="checkbox"/> Diapers            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insulin/syringes                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-perishable food/snacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other insulin supplies                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyeglasses         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-perishable dietary items                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Blanket                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing aids       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special dietary foods if required             | <input type="checkbox"/> Important papers           | <input type="checkbox"/> Dentures           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic equipment                          | <input type="checkbox"/> I.D. with current address  |   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment items        |   |

## You may qualify for the Special Needs Shelter if:

- You need assistance with basic everyday tasks.
- You have a chronic condition that requires assistance but not hospitalization.
- You are oxygen dependent.

## Do Not Bring:

Pets, Firearms, Alcoholic Beverages or Perishable Food Items.

Contact the Office of Emergency Management for a SpNS application: 941-833-4000