

Western Massachusetts Health & Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC)

Newsletter - November 2016

News and Updates

Western MA HMCC is On-Call

In late October the HMCC held our first Full Coalition meeting, where we released our regional emergency coordination concept of operations, and went live with our 24/7 duty Officer function. HMCC staff will rotate shifts as on-call Duty Officers to ensure two functions are continuously in place: rapidly receive information to notify HMCC members of an emergency, and determine if additional HMCC actions are necessary.

A copy of the [Duty Officer presentation](#) is housed on the website for reference, as is a [Quick Reference Guide](#) for when to call, when to email, and what to expect. Both documents include all necessary contact information for the Duty Officer.

CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule Resources Available!

In September, the Federal Register posted the **final emergency preparedness requirements for Medicare and Medicaid participating providers & suppliers**. Health care providers and suppliers affected by this rule must comply and implement all regulations one year after the effective date, on November 16, 2017.

ASPR has published a **Resource Guide** to assist providers and suppliers in achieving compliance. The most recent version of this document can be found on the [ASPR TRACIE CMS resource page](#), as well as [on our website](#).

The HMCC staff and leadership will discuss how the western MA HMCC can be an ongoing resource to our healthcare partners over the coming year.

Should anyone have specific needs or questions, please don't hesitate to [contact Mark](#).

CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule: Resources at Your Fingertips

Original Publication: October 18, 2016
Current as of November 2, 2016

Introduction

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the *Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers Final Rule* to establish consistent emergency preparedness requirements for healthcare providers participating in Medicare and Medicaid, increase patient safety during emergencies, and establish a more coordinated response to natural and human-caused disasters. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) worked closely with CMS in the development of the rule. This document provides links to numerous related resources applicable to a variety of providers and suppliers.

The rule was published on September 16, 2016 and is effective as of November 15, 2016. The regulations must be implemented by affected entities by November 15, 2017.

This rule applies to 17 provider and supplier types as a condition of participation for CMS. The providers/suppliers are required to meet four core elements (with specific requirements adjusted based on the individual characteristics of each provider and supplier):

1. **Emergency plan**—Develop an emergency plan based on a risk assessment and using an "all-hazards" approach, which will provide an integrated system for emergency planning that focuses on capacities and capabilities.
2. **Policies and procedures**—Develop and implement policies and procedures based on the emergency plan and risk assessment that are reviewed and updated at least annually. For hospitals, Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), and Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities, the policies and procedures must address the provision of subsistence needs, such as food, water and medical supplies, for staff and residents, whether they evacuate or shelter in place.
3. **Communication plan**—Develop and maintain an emergency preparedness communication plan that complies with federal, state and local laws. Patient care must be coordinated within the facility, across healthcare providers, and with state and local public health departments and emergency management systems to protect patient health and safety in the event of a disaster.
4. **A training and testing program**—Develop and maintain training and testing programs, including initial training in policies and procedures. Facility staff will have to demonstrate knowledge of emergency procedures and provide training at least



Updated Healthcare Preparedness and Response Capabilities Released

Earlier this week ASPR issued [the 2017-2022 Health Care Preparedness and Response Capabilities](#). These capabilities outline the high-level objectives that the nation's health care delivery system, including HMCCs and individual health care organizations, should undertake to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. Streamlined from eight capabilities to four, awardees will begin to implement them starting in the new HPP project period, which begins in July 2017.

The new capabilities highlight the role of HMCC's in overall system preparedness and response. We will be looking more deeply at the capabilities this winter, and encourage you to do the same!



HMCC Standing Committees Forming

At our Full Coalition meeting in October, attendees had the chance to sign up to serve on one of two anticipated standing committees within the HMCC - a **Planning Committee**, and a **Training and Exercise Committee**. We will convene interested parties for both committees via conference call in early December to set some initial goals and objectives for the committees. If you wish to be on either committee mailing list, please [contact Mark!](#)

CDC Releases Healthcare and Hospital Discussion Guide for Cybersecurity

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a healthcare/hospital [Cybersecurity Discussion Guide](#) in the late summer to help organizations and facilities identify issues, strengths, and weaknesses associated with response capabilities, communication and information sharing for their healthcare organization or hospital when responding to a cybersecurity incident, and prevention planning. It is designed for groups of 8-12 people, scenario-based, and includes all necessary facilitation notes and prompts. If HMCC staff can be of use to you in bringing this facilitated discussion to your organization, please be in touch with [Mark!](#)



Web Links

[Region 1 HMCC homepage](#)

[Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council \(WRHSAC\)](#)

[Region 1 Multi-Agency Coordination Center \(MACC\) Project](#)

The Western MA HMCC is sponsored by the
[Franklin Regional Council of Governments](#)

and made possible by funding from the
[Massachusetts Department of Public Health Office of Emergency Preparedness](#)

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