



An Overview of the New CMS Emergency Preparedness Regulations for Medicare-certified Home Health and Hospice Organizations

Webinar featuring Mary St. Pierre, RN, BSN, MCA
Wednesday, April 1, 2015 • 11:00AM – 12:30PM PST

The Alliance for Healthy Communities is proud to partner with the Home Care Association of Washington and the Washington State Hospice and Palliative Care Organizations to offer a comprehensive webinar on the new emergency preparedness requirements for Medicare and Medicaid participating home health and hospice organizations.



In response to a number of disasters and emergency situations occurring since 2001, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published in December of 2013 a notice of proposed rulemaking detailing anticipated emergency preparedness requirements for Medicare and Medicaid participating health care providers and suppliers. The 12.27.13 Emergency Preparedness Federal Register notice, and the CMS emergency preparedness website, offer extensive guidance and resources for implementation of these new regulatory requirements. While the final adoption of the requirements is still pending, every indication is that they will be adopted shortly as proposed. See below for the Content Outline.



This 90-minute webinar will address the rule and the CMS resources available to providers of Medicare/Medicaid home health and hospice services. In addition, we have invited representatives from the Washington State Department of Health to participate in the program, sharing resources and information that may already be available through DOH to help agencies comply with the new requirements.

The webinar is funded by a grant from the Washington State Department of Health. As such, the cost of participating to Washington Hospice and Home Health organizations will be nominal, to cover only limited administrative expenses. Should the nominal fee be a barrier to any agency, please contact the Alliance and we will waive the cost.

We encourage you to gather up any and all staff who have a stake and/or responsibility in the implementation of the new requirements, and participate in this educational event together in a conference or meeting room. Since the webinar is from 11:00-12:30, you can make it a "lunch and learn" opportunity.

Presenter – Mary St. Pierre, RN, BSN, MCA



Mary has worked in the home care and hospice industry for over 45 years as a home care nurse, supervisor, manager, and, most recently, as Vice President of Regulatory Affairs at the National Association for Home Care and Hospice. Her precise grasp of regulations, understanding of CMS policy, and RHHI (MAC) processes combined with her desire to bring the spirit of caring and compassion to home care make her not only one of the most knowledgeable people in the industry, but also an exceptional teacher. Her work has truly helped thousands of home care and hospice agencies across the country deliver the best care possible to their patients.

Course Outline



A. Elements of Emergency Preparedness Requirements and Guidance for Home Health Agencies and Hospices

1. Emergency Plan
 - a. Risk Assessment
 - b. Collaboration with government
2. Policies and Procedures
 - a. Individual patient assessment and emergency plan
 - b. Report of at risk patients to local emergency preparedness authority
 - c. Medical documentation and confidentiality system
 - d. Use of Volunteers
 - e. Arrangements with other providers
3. Communication Plan
 - a. Information about staff, volunteer, patient, and necessary contacts
 - b. Means of communication
 - c. Method for sharing patient medical documentation
 - d. Means for providing information about needs/availability
4. Training and Testing
 - a. Initial training and annual training
 - b. Testing
 - 1) Conduct of exercises
 - 2) Analysis of response



B. Additional Hospice In-Patient Facility Requirements

1. Policies and Procedures to address:
 - a. Sheltering in place
 - b. Safe evacuation
 - c. Provision of subsistence needs
 - 1) Food, water, medical supplies
 - 2) Energy source (lighting, temperature, sewage, etc.)
2. Role in cases of State waiver
3. Communication Plan
 - a. Method of sharing patient information in the event of evacuation
 - b. Provision of information about condition and location of patients
 - c. Information about inpatient occupancy and ability to provide assistance



C. Resources

1. Government
2. Proprietary

Registration – \$25 per connection

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