



To: Health Care Coalitions

Dear Health Care Coalitions:

Thank you for your recent and continued efforts to assist with the implementation of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers Final Rule. CMS and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) National Healthcare Preparedness Programs (NHPP) have collaborated greatly together to ensure facilities affected by this rule have a variety of resources available to them, including more participation with your coalitions.

With the implementation date of November 15, 2017 fast approaching, CMS and NHPP are requesting that health care coalitions assist in providing documentation to support verification of the Emergency Preparedness training and testing exercise requirements. CMS requires that facilities annually complete two exercises and document their participation. To assist facilities in demonstrating this compliance, we request that health care coalitions provide facilities who participate in their exercises with some confirmation of their participation, which could include an email confirmation, listing of facilities, meeting minutes, or After-Action Reviews, as long as they identify the participating facilities.

Providing documentation that verifies participation will allow CMS surveyors to assess compliance with these requirements during a survey. We appreciate your assistance in providing this documentation to facilities that participate with you in these exercises.

We thank you for your continued efforts and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Wright".

David R. Wright  
Director, Survey and Certification Group  
CMS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa C. Harvey".

Melissa Harvey, RN, MSPH  
Director, Division of National Healthcare  
Preparedness Programs (NHPP)  
ASPR