ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Requestor: ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮
Requestor Phone:
Requestor Email:
Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 13 February 2017
Response Date: 20 February 2017
Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

▮▮▮▮▮▮ asked if ASPR TRACIE had tools and other resources for home health care nurses to help them evacuate non-ambulatory patients (with and without assistive devices) on their own during an emergency.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE team reviewed existing Topic Collections for materials on evacuation and home health agencies; namely, the Healthcare Facility Evacuation / Sheltering and Homecare and Hospice Topic Collections. We also searched for other resources online. Resources gathered are listed below. Section I includes materials that are specific to home health care agencies. Section II provides other resources related to evacuation of healthcare facilities; however, they include relevant information that may be helpful to home health agencies.

I. Home Health Care Evacuation Plans, Tools, Templates, and Guidance Documents

HCA Education and Research. (2012). Home Care Emergency Preparedness: A Handbook to Assist Home Care Providers in Emergency Preparedness Planning. Home Care Association of New York State.

> This handbook can help homecare providers develop emergency plans. It also features New York-specific state regulations. Evacuation is addressed on pages 34-35. Sheltering and the different types of shelters is also discussed, and begins on page 43.

Home Care Association of New York State. (n.d.). Planning Tools Homepage: Evacuation. (Accessed 2/16/2017.)

> This website contains several planning tools for home health care agencies. Specifically there is an Evacuation section, which includes the following materials: Evacuation Tracking Tool, Emergency Evacuation Plan, Employers Guide for Evacuation, Evacuation Guide, and Emergency Checklist.

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Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). Home Health Emergency Preparedness: A Handbook to Assist Home Health Care Providers in Emergency Preparedness Planning.

This handbook was written to help Michigan home care agencies develop and evaluate their emergency preparedness plans. Evacuation is addressed on pages 28-39. Sheltering and the different types of shelter is also discussed, and begins on page 32. Note: This material is adapted from the *Home Care Emergency Preparedness: A Handbook to Assist Home Care Providers in Emergency Preparedness Planning* produced by the HCA Education and Research subsidiary of the Home Care Association of New York State.

National Association for Home Care and Hospice. (2008). Emergency Preparedness Packet for Home Health Agencies.

This document provides guidance and templates to assist in emergency preparedness for agencies, patients and their families, and agency staff. In addition, the incident command system has been outlined and included to instruct home care and hospice providers of state and local emergency response structures.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. (2013). Patient/ Client Evacuation Planning: A Tool for Emergency Preparedness.

This tool can help home health, hospice and other agencies assist their patients/clients in developing an appropriate emergency evacuation plan by enabling staff to maintain an information record of summary medical information and specific patient needs during an emergency.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (n.d.). Disaster Planning Guide for Home Health Care Providers. (Accessed 2/16/2017.)

This document provides guidance on preparedness planning for home health care providers. It includes simple measures that home health care providers can implement to increase the personal readiness of their patients and themselves, including evacuation.

Zane, R., and Biddinger, P. (2011). Home Health Patient Assessment Tools: Preparing for Emergency Triage. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

The purpose of this guide was to develop a patient risk assessment tool that will allow home care agencies, hospitals, and emergency planners to anticipate the needs of all home care patients in a community, should a mass casualty incident (MCI) occur. It focuses on those whose needs are most complex—those patients who could not be safely evacuated to a public shelter or even a special needs shelter during a MCI. It includes a Community-Living Patient Assessment Tool for Disaster Planning, which is a screening tool that creates a record for identifying patient needs, and plans for meeting those needs.

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II.   Other Healthcare Facility Evacuation Tools and Resources

NOTE: Although these materials are not geared towards home health agencies, some of the information contained within them may still be helpful for your request.

American Red Cross. (n.d.) Disaster Preparedness for Seniors by Seniors. (Accessed 2/16/2017.)

The following document provides essential preparedness information for seniors and potentially those in home care situations regarding making a plan, getting a kit and being informed during an emergency.

Assisted Living Federation of America. (n.d.). Emergency Preparedness Tool Kit. (Accessed 2/16/2017.)

This toolkit provides information and resources for assisted living facilities leadership, and can help them prepare and plan for events that may cause evacuation or sheltering in place. Appendices also include an employee survey for emergency help, evacuation policies and procedures, an evacuation agreement, an authorization to disclose health information, and an emergency preparedness checklist for senior living communities.

Chatham Emergency Management Agency. (n.d.). Hospice Evacuation Plan Format. (Accessed 2/16/2017.)

Components of this evacuation plan can be used by hospice facility emergency planners when developing their own procedures.

Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency. (2012). Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place Guidelines for Healthcare Entities.

This guidance document is comprised of three parts. Part I provides general guidance on the differences between evacuation and shelter in place, including the roles and responsibilities of healthcare facilities and the healthcare system. Part II includes an evacuation and shelter in place plan template that healthcare facilities can use to create or update their own plan. Part III includes a set of two tabletop exercises (shelter-in-place and evacuation) that facility emergency planners may use in the planning phase as they develop their plans to identify needs, gaps, or solutions, and/or may use to educate personnel on the components of their existing plan. **NOTE: In Part II, an Appendix titled, "Carry Evacuation Techniques" (beginning on page 51) provides emergency carry techniques for evacuation of non-ambulatory patients.**