

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance

Requestor: [REDACTED]

Requestor Phone: [REDACTED]

Requestor Email:

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 5 October 2016

Response Date: 14 October 2016; updated response 10 January 2018

Type of TTA Request: Standard

Request:

[REDACTED] requested technical assistance in researching sample emergency operations plans and policies for a Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC).

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team researched several emergency planning resources related to FQHCs. These materials are provided in the sections below and are categorized as follows: Plans, Tools, and Templates; and Guidance Resources.

The ASPR TRACIE Team also reviewed several Topic Collections, including the [Ambulatory Care and Federally Qualified Health Centers \(FQHC\)](#), and [Emergency Operations Plans/ Emergency Management Program](#) Topic Collections. A list of comprehensively developed Topic Collections can be found here: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/topic-collection>.

CMS-Specific Information:

CMS recently published the [interpretive guidelines](#) and the State Operations Manual that addresses specific regulatory expectations. This is posted on their website (under the Downloads section): <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertEmergPrep/Emergency-Prep-Rule.html>.

ASPR TRACIE has developed and collected a number of resources that we encourage you to use and believe will help facilitate compliance, including the resources provided here. However, this does not substitute review of the final rule text and interpretive guidelines. If you have specific questions about your facility's compliance please review the interpretive guidelines when they are developed, contact your state's survey agency, or the CMS Survey and Certification Group (SCG) at the following email address: SCGEmergencyPrep@cms.hhs.gov.

CMS and ASPR TRACIE are partnering to provide technical assistance, and share resources and promising practices to help affected providers and suppliers start or update the documents mandated by the new Emergency Preparedness rule. Additional key resources include:

- The ASPR TRACIE dedicated CMS Rule page: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/cmsrule>
- The entire CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule: <https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-21404>

- The CMS Emergency Preparedness Survey and Certification Page: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertEmergPrep/Emergency-Prep-Rule.html>
- CMS has [developed a Quick Glance Table of the rule requirements by provider type](#), to highlight key points of the new Emergency Preparedness rule. **NOTE:** This table is not meant to be an exhaustive list of requirements nor should it serve as a substitute for the regulatory text.
- ASPR TRACIE developed a [CMS Emergency Preparedness \(EP\) Rule Resources at Your Fingertips Document](#). Within this document are links to key resources:
 - CMS' developed [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) documents](#) that synthesizes answers to commonly asked inquiries about the CMS EP Rule.
 - The FAQs, in combination with the CMS [at-a-glance chart](#) and [Provider and Supplier Type Definitions Fact Sheet](#), can help planners identify and address planning gaps and facilitate compliance with the regulations.
 - Interested in learning more about your local healthcare coalition? [This chart](#) can help you identify the preparedness office of your state public health agency. Remember: the release of the CMS EP Rule provides healthcare coalitions a tremendous opportunity to strengthen relationships and leverage a broader group of personnel and resources to provide for the medical needs of the whole community during a disaster.
 - If you missed any of the Medicare Learning Network National Call on the EP Rule, you can access the PowerPoint [slides, transcript, and audio recording here](#).

I. Plans, Tools, and Templates

California EMS Authority and California Primary Care Association. (2004). [Community Clinic and Health Center Emergency Operations Plan](#). California Clinic Emergency Preparedness Project.

Healthcare emergency planners can use this template to develop or maintain an existing emergency management program. The template includes the language, procedures, policies, and forms needed to create a comprehensive plan. Note: This resource is older than 10 years old, but may still be helpful.

Columbia University School of Nursing, Center for Health Policy, and New York Consortium for Emergency Preparedness Continuing Education. (2007). [Emergency Preparedness Toolkit for Community Health Centers & Community Practice Sites](#). Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers.

This toolkit is intended to be used by leadership of community practice sites (including community health centers, group practices, and specialty care practices) to assess vulnerability; create an emergency preparedness plan; train staff to the plan; and evaluate the staff's readiness through participation in drill and exercises. It also provides guidance and tools for connecting with local emergency management planners to better understand how a community practice site's resources and expertise can be used during an emergency response.

Lee County, Florida, Emergency Management. (2014). [CEMP Criteria for Ambulatory Surgery Centers](#).

This checklist contains the required elements for a comprehensive emergency management plan, as well as guidance on the plan format, for ambulatory surgery centers in Florida. It may be used as a reference by other facilities to help develop their plans.

National Healthcare for the Homeless Council. (n.d.). [Community Health Center Emergency Planning Guidelines](#). (Accessed 9/2/2016.)

Emergency management staff can use this template (available in Microsoft Word) to develop community health center plans.

Palm Beach County, Florida. (2014). [Cross-Reference for Comprehensive Emergency Plan Ambulatory Surgical Centers](#).

This checklist was designed to help ambulatory surgical centers confirm that they have all required elements in their emergency operations plans to receive certification by their local emergency management agency. It may be used as a reference by other facilities to help develop their plans.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration. (2016). [Form 10: Emergency Preparedness Report](#).

This form, which is also part of the Health Resources & Services Administration's Health Center Program Site Visit Guide, can be used by health centers when preparing their annual emergency preparedness and management reports. The form can also serve as a short checklist of emergency preparedness activities a health center should undertake.

II. Guidance Resources

Bureau of Primary Health Care. (2016). [Draft Health Center Program Compliance Manual](#). Health Resources and Services Administration.

This draft "Compliance Manual" can help health centers understand and demonstrate compliance with Health Center Program requirements.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2015). [Effective Health Care Provider Emergency Planning](#).

This toolkit provides a variety of information and numerous links to resources that can assist healthcare centers in the emergency planning process. Guidance on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Survey and Certification Process is also provided (note: new regulations released in 2016).

Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers. (2014). [Health Center Guide to Emergency Preparedness](#).

This website provides an overview of, and links to resources specific to, emergency preparedness for health centers. The site also includes a "Preparedness Toolbox," which contains links to helpful resources.

National Association of Community Health Centers. (2007). [Emergencies Happen: An In-Depth Guide to Emergency Management for Health Centers](#).

This guide provides health centers with information and resources to assist health centers in developing and implementing an all-hazards-focused emergency management component to their established risk management program.