CMS published an advanced copy of interpretive guidance for its final emergency preparedness rule for healthcare providers. The regulations must be implemented by November 15, 2017.

The Home Health and Hospice providers are required to meet four core elements:

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.
   a. **Risk Assessment** using an “all hazards” approach
      i. Begin with your Regional Coalition assessment (see Region links below)
      ii. Individual agency risk assessment
         2. Sample Tool: Hazard Vulnerability Assessment Tool
      iii. Agency checklist: Conducting a Home Care Emergency Preparedness Assessment
   b. What to include in Emergency Plan ([click here](#))
   c. Guidance for individuals
      i. CT Guide to Emergency Preparedness
      ii. My Emergency Preparedness Guide (Maryland)

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.

3. **Communication plan**—Develop and maintain an emergency preparedness communication plan that complies with federal, state and local laws. ([click here](#))

4. **Training and testing program**—Develop and maintain training and testing programs, including initial training in policies and procedures. Agencies must conduct 2 drills and exercises to test the emergency plan or participate in an actual incident that tests the plan by 11/15/17. ([click here](#))
Connecticut’s 5 Regional Coalitions:

- Region 1 (Bridgeport—southwestern CT)
- Region 2 (Middletown—southcentral CT)
- Region 3 (Hartford—northcentral CT)
- Region 4 (Colchester—eastern CT)
- Region 5 (Waterbury—northwestern CT)

General Resources:

- HHS ASPR, the Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE)
- The updated ASPR TRACIE CMS EP Rule: Resources at Your Fingertips document includes links to resources applicable to a variety of providers including home health and hospice.
- Maryland-National Capital Home Care Association: https://mncha.org/EPN-Resources