



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDANCE: HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE

*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
      1. Tips: [www.ready.gov/risk-assessment](http://www.ready.gov/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**.
  - a. [Emergency Preparedness Policy and Procedure Checklist - LeadingAge](#)
  - b. **Sample:** [Emergency Preparedness Policy and Procedure](#)
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>