

## OVERVIEW

### Home Care Emergency Preparedness Toolkit: An Essential Resource for Providers

Emergency preparedness in home care and hospice presents a unique challenge. Unlike facilities and institutions, patients are cared for at home, provided a wide variety of medical and personal care for a broad spectrum of conditions and needs, are geographically widespread across their communities, and as such require a more complex approach to preparedness and response.

During an emergency, each patient's home, neighborhood, and/or community is a distinct emergency in and of itself that must be navigated and managed by the home care or hospice agency. The agency's navigation responsibilities also extend to the patient's physician, managed health plan, hospitals or nursing homes if the patient happens to be in transition, pharmacy, and core community supports, especially family.

#### Description

This Emergency Preparedness Toolkit for home care and hospice was compiled with the assistance of a workgroup (please see *Acknowledgements*) of providers, the Home Care Association of New York State (HCA), the New York State Association of Health Care Providers (HCP) and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP) and the Office of Primary Care and Health Systems Management (OPCHSM). HCA and HCP are collaborative partners to the Department on multi-tiered initiatives in emergency preparedness and response.

It is a compilation of resources to help agencies to assist their patients and their families prepare in advance for any type of emergency situation. Together, these resources address a variety of issues and considerations necessary for effective preparedness planning for patients at home. The information within the Toolkit can be incorporated into preparedness planning in conjunction with admission to your agency so that the planning process is begun and in place as intended – well before an emergency event takes place.

This Toolkit should also assist agencies and patients under the new Federal Conditions of Participation for emergency preparedness, which require patient-specific emergency plans.

Please use this Toolkit in the manner that best suits your agency. The Toolkit can be shared in its entirety with staff, patients and families; or an agency can select from among the resources provided that best fit the needs of their staff and clientele.





## Toolkit Access and Contact Information

The Toolkit can be found on the Health Commerce System (HCS) or via HCA and HCP. Feedback and further recommendations on Toolkit resources may be sent to the contacts below.

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