



EVHC READY

The Eastern Region's Pulse On Healthcare Emergency Preparedness

Thursday
February 4, 2021

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Regulatory Updates

CMS- CMS Puts Patients Over Paperwork with New Rule that Addresses the Prior Authorization Process

Source: Center for Medicare and Medicaid, the “CMS Interoperability and Prior Authorization” rule is the next phase of CMS interoperability rulemaking, aimed at improving data exchange while simultaneously reducing provider and patient burden. This final rule requires the payers regulated under this rule (namely, Medicaid and CHIP managed care plans, state Medicaid and CHIP fee-for-service programs (FFS) and issuers of individual market Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) on the Federally-facilitated exchanges (FHEs)) to implement application programming interfaces (APIs) that will give providers better access to data about their patients, and streamline the process of prior authorization. APIs are the foundation of smartphone applications, and when integrated with a provider’s electronic health record (EHR), they can enable data access at the touch of a button. By exchanging relevant health information between patients, providers and payers, APIs support a better health care experience for patients. Patients have easier access to their own health information, their providers have a more complete picture of their care, and patients can take their information with them as they



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move from plan to plan, and from provider to provider throughout the healthcare system. This ensures more coordinated, quality care, and less repetitive and unnecessary care that is costly. For more information use the following [link](#).

VHASS Minute

When Should I Enter an Event in VHASS?

When should I enter an event in VHASS? A situation that compromises the ability to provide care for the members living in your community or staying in your acute care facility. For example: Fire, flooding, extended power outage, natural disaster, and/or need to evacuate.

Why should I add an event? Adding an event to VHASS alerts the RHCC manager (or on call person) to the problem. This allows them the ability to begin assisting in obtaining resources if needed, or places them on alert to assist as needed. It also provides information to other Coalition members of the event so they too can be prepared to assist as needed.

How do I add an event? After logging into your VHASS account click "create notification." You will then be directed to the "create notification page," fill in the information requested and hit save. This will alert the Coalition staff and you will be contacted. VHASS resource information can be found on the VHASS website <https://vhass.org/> and on our website under the resources tab. <https://www.evhc.org/>

Training and Exercise

CMS- Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Training

Source: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is offering a web-based training course on how to properly code of Section GG. This 45-minute course is intended for providers in the following care settings: Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), Long-Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs), Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs), and Home Health Agencies (HHAs); and is designed to be used on demand anywhere you can access a browser. The course is divided into the following four lessons and includes interactive exercises that allow you to test your knowledge in real life scenarios:

[Section GG Cross-Setting Training \(45:00\)](#)

Lesson 1: Importance of Section GG for Post-Acute Care

Lesson 2: Section GG Assessment and Coding Principles

Lesson 3: Coding GG0130.Self-Care Items

Lesson 4: Coding GG0170.Mobility Items



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For more information or to Register use the following [link](#).

Future exercises

We have several exercises coming up in the future, they will be centered around the needs of our communities, but we will also be developing exercises based on direction of surveyors and grant requirements. Two of our bigger exercises will be based around the burn annex and water management planning. We will use this newsletter to provide information on topics that may help you in your planning and preparations.

Burn Annex

In preparation for our upcoming burn annex exercise we will present several articles on burn management. The first article will be centered around pre-hospital management of burn patients, well will later include information on the burn annex.

JEMS- Prehospital Stabilization of the Burn Patient

Source: Journal of Emergency Medical Services, delivered in a logical and pragmatic format, this presentation delivers case studies to highlight the role of EMS in the stabilization of the burn patient including discussion of initial triage, fluid resuscitation, intubation decisions, inhalation injuries and treatment interventions. Emergent care and stabilization of the patient with a thermal injury can determine both short-term and long-term outcomes, including survivability. Vivid photographs and interactive slides complement this session. The initial podcast was on January 25, 2021, however it is still available. Just follow the instructions on the registration link to view [link](#).

JEMS- Scorched Skin: A Guide to Prehospital Burn Management

The article linked below discusses types of burn and how EMS providers may manage them. However, remember that EMS agencies have protocols they must follow when managing patients. Each agency falls under their regional protocols, for information about specific protocols please contact Mary Morton, EVHC Exercise and Training Coordinator @ mmorton@vaems.org. She will be able to guide you the EMS agency in your area. [link](#)



Water Management Plan

What is a Water Management Plan? A plan or program that identifies hazardous conditions and steps to take to minimize the growth and spread of Legionella and other waterborne pathogens in building water systems. Additional information can be found at <https://www.evhc.org/> under the resources tab.

Who needs one? If you can answer yes to any of the questions below then your community/facility needs a water management plan:

- Is your building a healthcare facility where patients stay overnight or does your building house or treat people who have chronic and acute medical problems or weakened immune systems?
- Does your building primarily house people older than 65 years (like a retirement home or assisted-living facility)?
- Does your building have multiple housing units and a centralized hot water system (like a hotel or high-rise apartment complex)?
- Does your building have more than ten stories (including basement levels)?
- Does your building have a cooling tower?
- Does your building have a hot tub (or spa) that is not drained between use?
- Does your building have a decorative fountain?
- Does your building have a centrally-installed mister, atomizer, air washer, or humidifier?

What the regulations say: CMS requires active water management programs for facilities who receive funding from them. More information can be found in "Regulations and Guidelines on Legionella Control in Water Systems - Management of Legionella in Water Systems - NCBI Bookshelf" [link](#)

What is Legionella? Is the bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease, lives in water and can grow and spread through your facility's water system, placing the health of your residents at serious risk. What type of conditions promote the bacteria? What are the critical steps to prevent its growth? What is your required duty of care as defined by industry standards? By law?

What causes Legionella to grow? Some internal factors that cause growth inside of pipes and equipment include fluctuations in pH levels, water temperature, stagnant zones, and inefficient levels of disinfectant. External factors can include water main breaks, construction in or around the building, or changes in municipal water supply.

While water safety for most falls to the municipality it is important to be aware of the dangers and protection measures for your community. We have included the link to toolkit from Health and Human Services that can assist you. [link](#)



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Inventory Maintenance

PPE Supplies Distributed

Scott has been busy receiving and handing out supplies to the Coalition members. To date the Resource Management Specialist had distributed; total PPE on hand: 783,439, total PPE distributed to date: 2,665,014. Please contact Scott @ smaynard@vaems.org if you have PPE needs or questions.

Best Practices

Lighting for Senior Communities

Keeping those who live in our community's safe is our number one priority. The article included talks about lighting safety within our senior communities. There are also two other documents available that provide information about lighting and visual environments for seniors. I have also included a PowerPoint presentation that talks about it as well. (Barker, B. et al. "Lighting and the visual environment for seniors and the low vision population." (2016).) We have also heard that surveyors have asked about lighting within communities. [link](#)

Tools

VHASS

For those who missed the January Lunch and Learn with Matthew Marry we discussed the importance of reporting and keeping community information updated in the system. It is important to know that VHASS is a Virginia only system. The information reported goes directly to the Governor's office and keeps him advised of the state of healthcare communities in the Commonwealth. The data is used to determine PPE needs, community COVID status, and predict future trends.

Do1Thing

Do1Thing is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help build disaster resilient communities. Their concept is to do "one thing" each month in order to build an emergency plan. This is a free resource and provides monthly tasks business partners can take to build their emergency preparedness plans. They also have resources for families to build their emergency preparedness plans for home. Step one is the development of the risk assessment, this seems to be a great resource for those new to management and/or emergency preparedness. It would also be a good resource for new members of your staff. [link](#)

FEMA Continuity Resource Toolkit

FEMA has developed a toolkit with templates and resources to help organizations develop and maintain continuity programs and plans. The link to the toolkit is: [link](#)



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Healthcare Preparedness Project

EVHC Accepting Healthcare Preparedness Project Proposals

The Coalition is soliciting Healthcare Preparedness Project Proposals for the coming fiscal year. The projects must be regional in nature and improve the disaster preparedness of the region's health system. We encourage all of our core member and partners to think about how we can improve the preparedness of our health system. Project proposals should not be limited to COVID. The best projects often take an all hazard approach to preparedness and response.

Examples of past preparedness projects include: evacuation kits, MED SLED, hemorrhage control kits, fixed satellite phones, amateur radios, PAPRs,

Healthcare Incident Command System, Crisis Communication, Infection Control & CHEC courses, multi-facility/multi-agency exercises, and more. Every project submitted will be reviewed for compliance with the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) grant guidance and other applicable federal requirements.

If you have an idea for a regional preparedness project please submit your ideas via e-mail to mmorton@vaems.org