

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: Make Sure Your Emergency Preparedness Plan Addresses Terrorism, Cyber Attacks

Check out your new emergency planning requirements in a final rule published in the Sept. 16 Federal Register □ and the deadline for them may be sooner than you think.

In the rule, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** lays out four core areas required in providers' emergency plans: (1) risk assessment and emergency planning; (2) policies and procedures; (3) communication plan; and (4) training and testing.

The rule will require hospices to develop and maintain emergency preparedness plans, CMS says. The agency made a number of modifications to its originally proposed hospice plan requirements.

Plans should address "the threats that pose the greatest risk to the security of the nation, including acts of terrorism, cyber-attacks, pandemics, and catastrophic natural disasters," the rule says.

See the rule, which takes effect Nov. 15, at www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-09-16/pdf/2016-21404.pdf. The rule contains links to many emergency planning resources.