

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: New Emergency Preparedness Guidance Hits The Books

You may feel like you've been living out your emergency preparedness plan for the past year, but you still need to keep up with EP-related survey requirements.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recently issued its Updated Guidance for Emergency Preparedness-Appendix Z of the State Operations Manual (SOM), which includes provisions from two final rules on EP that CMS published in September 2019, according to a letter to state survey agencies.

CMS also added "'emerging infectious diseases' to the definition of all-hazards approach in Appendix Z" in February 2019, the agency notes in letter QSO-21-15-ALL.



"In light of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency (PHE), CMS is expanding the Emergency Preparedness Interpretive Guidelines to further expand on best practices, lessons learned, and planning considerations for EIDs," the letter says.

Detail: In the document, "CMS guides that the communication plan should include all physicians and allowed practitioners involved in the patient's care as well as any additional practitioners at [agencies] to reflect the coordinated, interdisciplinary approach to care," points out the National Association for Home Care & Hospice in its member newsletter.

The 113-page survey memo is at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-21-15-all.pdf>.