Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) Overview

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Mission

Establish a national interoperable network of state-based ESAR-VHP systems for registering and verifying the identity and credentials of volunteers in advance of disasters and public health and medical emergencies

ESAR-VHP At A Glance

- **62** ESAR-VHP programs – all 50 states, DC, 3 localities, all U.S. territories and freely associated states
- Primary Funding Sources
  - ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program
- **278,915** registered ESAR-VHP volunteers

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State ESAR-VHP Program Characteristics

- Each system administered and maintained by a state
- Each system verifies the identification, credentials, licenses, certifications, and hospital privileges of health professionals who volunteer to provide health services during a public health emergency
- Majority housed in state department of public health or equivalent
- Majority of ESAR-VHP programs require emergency declaration to activate system

Key Federal Program Strategies

- Establish federal ESAR-VHP Guidelines and standards to ensure consistency across states for credentials verification and data transfer/exchange
- Establish compliance requirements to identify state ESAR-VHP program capabilities and procedures and ensure effective management and deployment of volunteers
- Provide technical assistance
- Identify volunteers willing to be activated in a federal emergency
- Encourage integration of state ESAR-VHP programs and local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteer resources

Guidelines: Health Profession Occupations

- Physicians (Allopathic and Osteopathic
- Physician Assistants
- Registered Nurses
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
- Licensed Practical Nurses and Licensed Vocational Nurses
- Psychologists
- Clinical Social Workers
- Dentists
- Marriage/Family Therapists
- Pharmacists
- Respiratory Therapists

- Mental Health Counselors
- Veterinarians
- Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
- Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics
- Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists
- Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians
- Medical Records and Health Information Technicians
- Radiologic Technologists and Technicians

Guidelines: Credentials Collected and Verified

- Unencumbered, current professional license or other State authorization to practice
- Certification/registration
- Professional specialty certification
- Clinically active in hospital
- Clinically active

- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration
- Record of adverse actions
- Inspector General status
- Education
- Experience

Guidelines: Additional Data

- **Required data elements**
  - Identity or Personal Information
  - Contact Information
  - Emergency Contact Information
  - Consents and Pledges
  - Deployment Preferences
  - Language Skills
  - Volunteer Affiliations
  - Education
  - Experience

- **Optional data elements**
  - Background Check
  - Disaster Training

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Guidelines: ESAR-VHP Credential Levels

- Level 1: Verified active clinical hospital practice
- Level 2: Verified active clinical practice (non-hospital)
- Level 3: Verified state licensure or certification (in good standing)
- Level 4: Verified education or experience (no verification of licensure or clinical practice)

Key State Compliance Requirements

- Offer Internet-based registration
- Register, collect, and verify credentials and qualifications of health professionals
- Develop expedited registration and credential verification immediately after a disaster or public health emergency
- Recruit and retain volunteers
- Develop protocols for deploying and tracking volunteers during an emergency

ESAR-VHP Website: Registration

Implementation Challenges

- Funding

- Access to national data sources

- Assignment of volunteers to credential levels 1 and 2

- Outdated guidelines, standards, and compliance requirements

New and Future Developments

- June 4: U.S. House passed the Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act
    - Reauthorizes ESAR-VHP through 2023
    - Pending President's signature

- FY 2019 – 2020
    - ESAR-VHP Compliance Requirements Update
    - FY 2019 – 2020: ESAR-VHP Guidelines Update

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For More Information

www.phe.gov/esarvhp

QUESTIONS?

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