CMS New Emergency Preparedness Rule

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a new emergency preparedness rule for health care facilities. The CMS Medical Learning Network is hosting a public call to discuss the requirement on October 5, 2016 at 1:30pm ET. Register for the call at https://blh.ier.intercall.com/details/d4e7a2cd3a1245f5b20fa6e053e215fe

The 650-page document can be downloaded on the ASHE website, with the regulations for hospitals beginning on page 584.

The requirements include:

- Emergency plans
- Policies and procedures
- Communication plans
- Training and testing
- Emergency and standby power systems

The CMS rule will apply to 17 different provider types, including:

- Hospitals
- Critical access hospitals
- Ambulatory surgical centers
- Long-term care facilities
- Home health services

The biggest implications for existing facilities include:

- Creating a formal communications plan
- Coordinating a collaborative response with state and local government when a disaster strikes
- Using an all-hazards approach in the hazard vulnerability assessment (HVA). The HVA must also identify all contingencies for which a hospital should plan and should outline necessary arrangements with other entities
- Verifying that alternate sources of energy maintain utilities and sewage/waste disposal
- Addressing policies for volunteers who are not licensed independent practitioners

Facilities need to implement these regulations by November 15, 2017.

For additional details and implications of the emergency preparedness rule CLICK HERE