

Comparison of Joint Commission and Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP) Emergency-Related Standards for Hospitals		
	Joint Commission	HFAP
Planning Activities	<p>The hospital must engage in planning activities to prepare for and develop an Emergency Operation Plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritize potential emergencies that could affect demand; 2. Communicate the hospital needs and vulnerabilities to community emergency response agencies; and 3. Keep inventory of resources on site that may be needed in an emergency. 	<p>All accredited hospitals must establish a disaster committee for emergency preparedness.</p>
Emergency Plan	<p>The hospital has an Emergency Operations Plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe procedures to follow when emergencies occur; 2. Identify the individual who has authority to activate the response and recovery phase; and 3. Identify alternative treatment sites. 	<p>The committee shall develop a written disaster plan that carefully outlines the duties of staff during a natural disaster, and make this plan available to the staff for crisis preparation. The hospital must develop a Comprehensive Emergency Plan to ensure that the safety and well being of patients are assured during emergencies.</p> <p>Accredited Hospitals also need a Weapons of Mass Destruction Response Plan; Fire Control Plan; and an External Disaster Plan.</p>

<p>Communication</p>	<p>The Emergency Operations Plan will discuss how the hospital will communicate during emergencies.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how staff and external authorities will be notified of the emergency; and 2. Describe how the hospital will communicate information to staff, patient, community, and other healthcare organizations; 	<p>The Disaster plan shall include provisions for establishing liaison with community agencies to coordinate in a disaster. The staff should have a call tree for the disaster plan.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Emergency Plan should discuss how the hospital will communicate to staff, community resources, and other external entities in emergencies.</p>
<p>Resource Management</p>	<p>The Emergency Operations Plan will discuss how the hospital will manage resources during the emergency.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how the hospital will obtain medications, medical supplies, and non-medical supplies during an emergency; and 2. Describe how the hospital will monitor the quantity of its resources. 	<p>The hospital should identify and make adequate provisions to ensure the supplies and equipment necessary to meet patients' needs in emergency or disaster situations.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Emergency Plan should discuss access to pharmaceuticals, food, and other supplies and equipment that may be needed during emergency or disaster situations.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Emergency Plan should define methods to evaluate repairs needed in emergencies.</p>
<p>Security Management</p>	<p>The Emergency Operations Plan will discuss how the hospital will manage security during an emergency.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe arrangements for internal security and the role community security agencies will play in the emergency; and 2. Describe how the hospital will manage hazardous, radioactive, and biological material in the emergency. 	<p>The Comprehensive Emergency Plan should address the security of patients, walk-in patients, and supplies during emergencies.</p>

<p>Staff Management</p>	<p>The Emergency Operations Plan will discuss how the hospital plans to manage staff during an emergency.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe staff responsibilities and to whom staff will report during an emergency; 2. Discuss staff training for the assigned emergency response roles; and 3. Communicate in writing with each practitioner regarding his role during an emergency. 	<p>The written disaster plan must be available to staff for crisis preparation. The hospital shall provide education program for staff regarding emergency preparedness.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Emergency Plan shall discuss qualifications and training needed by staff to implement emergency procedures during an emergency or disaster.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Emergency Plan should discuss identification, availability, and notification of personnel that are needed to carry out the emergency plans.</p>
<p>Utility Management</p>	<p>The Emergency Operations Plan will discuss how the hospital will manage utilities during an emergency. The plan should identify alternative means of providing electricity, water, fuel, medical gas systems, and other essential utility systems.</p>	<p>The Comprehensive Emergency Plan should have provisions discussing actions needed if gas, water, or electricity supply is shut off in the community.</p> <p>There must be emergency power and lighting in at least the operating, recovery, intensive care, emergency rooms, and stairwells. In all other areas not serviced by the emergency supply source, battery lamps and flashlights shall be available.</p>

<p>Patient Management</p>	<p>The plan will discuss how the hospital will manage patients during emergencies The plan will discuss how the hospital will manage treatment, evacuation, increase in demand, patient hygiene, mental health, mortuary services, and medical records during an emergency.</p>	<p>The disaster plan shall provide how the hospital will care for large numbers of patients during the disaster.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Emergency Plan shall address how the hospital will take care of the special needs of patients, and or transfer them to other hospitals.</p>
<p>Privileges to Licensed and Non Licensed Practitioners</p>	<p>During a disaster, the hospital may grant disaster privileges to volunteer licensed practitioners. The hospital may assign disaster responsibilities to volunteer practitioners who are not licensed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. These privileges are only granted when the Emergency Plan has been activated. 2. Bylaws should identify who grants these licenses, and how it will oversee performance. 3. Determine within seventy-two hours if the privileges should continue. 	<p>Bylaws should provide for the CEO to grant emergency privileges to licensed practitioners to accomplish life-saving procedures.</p> <p>This is generally limited to emergencies or disasters Bylaws should provide for the granting of temporary privileges during disasters.</p> <p>The hospital should use volunteers as appropriate <i>within the scope of their license or certification.</i></p>

Evaluation of Effectiveness	<p>The hospital will evaluate the effectiveness of its emergency planning activities and its emergency operations plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conduct annual reviews of risks, objectives, and inventory;2. Activate its Emergency Operations Plan twice a year at each site as an exercise;3. Monitor the performance of the exercise; and4. Identify and improve any deficiencies.	<p>Hospitals should perform disaster drills at least semi-annually, one of which should include the community. Each drill shall be evaluated by several observers in different areas and the hospital should use this information to improve capacity to respond to disasters.</p>
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