The Northwest Healthcare Response Network (The Network) serves a vital role in our community by leading healthcare organizations in a regional, collaborative effort to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters. This is a compendium of resources we offer to help ensure the resiliency of the region’s healthcare community. Many resources contribute toward organizations meeting healthcare CMS requirements and accreditation standards.

The Network facilitates system-wide planning with healthcare and other emergency response organizations to establish relationships, leverage expertise and develop plans and tools.

**Regional Acute Infectious Disease Response Plan***
Outlines how healthcare, EMS, Public Health, and the Network coordinate to respond to an infectious disease incident, and informs how individual facilities can plug into a regional healthcare response framework.

**Regional Healthcare Situational Awareness Procedure***
Outlines how information on the operations and needs of healthcare will be collected, analyzed and disseminated in an emergency response. CMS requires that healthcare organizations have a communications plan and mechanisms to share and gather information about healthcare operations during an incident. This plan provides the framework for individual facilities to plug into at a regional level.

**Regional Scarce Resource Management and Crisis Standards of Care Concept of Operations**
Provides a framework for a coordinated regional response in managing scarce resources during critical situations affecting our healthcare community.

Although not directly connected to healthcare CMS requirements, the concept of operations will be a vital addition to the region’s preparedness.

**Regional Patient Tracking Concept of Operations***
Defines the patient tracking process and responsibilities of healthcare, EMS, and other partners for the purposes of family reunification. Per CMS, most healthcare facilities are required to track the location of staff and patients in the facility’s care during an emergency. The concept of operations outlines how patients will be tracked regionally and how patient tracking fits into regional structures for family reunifications.

**King & Pierce County Long-term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC-MAP) for Evacuation and Resource Sharing***
Outlines the mechanisms for evacuation, transportation, resource sharing and patient tracking in a disaster. Per CMS, long-term care facilities must develop arrangements with other long-term care facilities and providers to receive residents in the event of limitations or cessation of operations to maintain the continuity of services to long-term care residents. The plan does not take the place of a facility-specific evacuation plan, but frames how long-term care facilities will operate under a regional response framework.

**Regional Healthcare System Emergency Response Plan***
*(estimated completion: Winter 2018)*
Outlines how healthcare organizations will work together in an emergency response, and provides the framework for individual facilities to plug into at a regional level.

**Regional Acute Infectious Disease Response Plan**
Outlines how healthcare, EMS, Public Health, and the Network coordinate to respond to an infectious disease incident, and informs how individual facilities can plug into a regional healthcare response framework.

**Regional Healthcare System Emergency Response Plan***
*(estimated completion: Winter 2018)*
Outlines how healthcare organizations will work together in an emergency response, and provides the framework for individual facilities to plug into at a regional level.

**Regional Hospital Evacuation Plan***
*(estimated completion: Spring 2018)*
Outlines how hospitals and key regional partners will respond during a hospital facility evacuation. It does not take the place of a facility-specific evacuation plan, but frames how hospitals will operate under a regional response framework.

*Contributes toward meeting a healthcare CMS requirement described as ‘required’, ‘strongly recommended’, ‘expected’ or ‘encouraged’ for one or more provider types.*

January 2018
Regional Healthcare Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA)*
Provides a detailed analysis of the hazards affecting healthcare organizations in our region. The regional healthcare HVA will not take the place of the facility-specific HVA, but will support individual facilities completing their HVA to meet the CMS requirement of performing a risk assessment using an "all-hazards" approach.

Clinical Guidance for NDMS Outbound Aeromedical Adult Patient Evacuation: A Toolkit for Civilian Hospitals*
Guides the clinical selection and preparation of adult patients for evacuation by air under the federal National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). While aeromedical patient evacuation by NDMS is only a small part of the greater mass patient movement concept, this toolkit provides vital information to civilian clinicians on patient selection and preparation.

Hospital Guidelines of Management of Pediatric Patients in Disasters Toolkit* (update in progress)
Provides the step-by-step approach and templates to create a facility-specific internal response to managing pediatric patients in an incident. Per CMS, hospitals must have a plan to address vulnerable populations, including pediatrics.

Hospital Decontamination Consensus Recommendations
(estimated completion: Spring 2018)
Hospitals have developed capabilities to safely respond to incidents requiring patient decontamination. In order to sustain and build on these capabilities, the Network and its partners are developing a five-year hospital-based decontamination doctrine and associated recommendations that will promote regional collaboration, best practices, and an outline of minimum capabilities. The output will be a work plan for developing, enhancing and sustaining consistent decontamination operational capabilities.

Healthcare Scarce Resource Management Tools
These tools support the management of healthcare scarce resources during a disaster. Although not directly connected to healthcare CMS requirements, they will be a vital addition to the region’s preparedness when managing scarce resources and patient care in a crisis situation.

WATrac
The Network is the regional administrator of WATrac, the statewide hospital bed, patient, and capability tracking system. We support its use with participating facilities, including on-call support and training.

Guidelines for Writing an Emergency Preparedness Plan Workbook* (Members only)
This workbook assists in the preparation of an Emergency Preparedness Plan that will establish responsibilities and procedures for staff to follow in preparation for and directly after a major emergency has impacted a non-hospital facility.

The Network provides the following services for its Members.

Assist with onsite support during healthcare accreditation visits, subject to staff availability.
Consult with and/or support exercise design, conduct and evaluation.

Documentation of participation in the healthcare coalition to support compliance of CMS and accreditation standards, where applicable.
Participate in Member-sponsored health events and disaster fairs, subject to staff availability.

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The Network promotes and facilitates the development of cooperative agreements among local healthcare organizations. These agreements help standardize local preparedness and response activities and make it easier for organizations to support each other during disasters by sharing resources and staff or moving patients.

**Mutual Aid Agreements**

- **Mutual Aid Plan for Healthcare Resource Sharing***
  - Provides a regional framework for sharing between facilities. Per CMS, hospitals must have a plan to develop arrangements with other healthcare facilities to ensure sharing of resources.

- **Hospital Evacuation and Response Mutual Aid Agreement***
  - Provides a regional framework to share resources and receive other hospital’s patients during an evacuation.

The Network develops innovative training and exercise opportunities tailored to the unique needs of Washington State’s healthcare community. Our partners—including the leading medical institutions in the region—contribute the latest knowledge to help ensure each training is relevant to our region’s healthcare organizations. In addition to the following items, the Network hosts workshops of interest and relevance for its Members throughout the year.

**Training & Exercises**

- **Business Resiliency Workshop***
  - An 8-hour interactive training course to introduce healthcare facility staff to business resiliency planning concepts. Business resiliency planning for healthcare addresses the need to remain open and functional during disaster and how that might be achieved from business, staff and patient perspectives. Participants are guided through a workbook designed to support facilities in developing their own business resiliency plan.

- **Pediatric Workshop***
  - A hands-on workshop designed specifically for non-pediatric clinicians to practice the principles of caring for pediatric patients in an emergency. The workshop helps meet CMS training requirements for hospitals and clinics, and is a valuable addition to the region’s preparedness.

- **Facility Emergency Preparedness Plan Activation Drill*** (Members only)
  - Instructions and tools to guide health care facilities in testing and assessing the activation of their Emergency Preparedness Plan.

- **Health Support Team (HST) Disaster Behavioral Health Workshop***
  - Trains clinical and non-clinical healthcare providers in the provision of ongoing support services to families, friends and community members in the aftermath of natural or man-made disasters. The aim is to provide tools for coping with a crisis or disaster across the continuum of acute response and rebuilding. Participation in this workshop may help meet CMS requirements for staff and individual mental health training.

- **Online Training Videos**
  - **WATrac How-to Videos** allow for consistency of training and familiarity with the system, as well as just-in-time training during an incident.
  - **Clinic Disaster Preparedness Training** provides basic preparedness training for clinic staff in a five-part series.

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Training & Exercises

Adding Value Through Exercise Design: Developing Exercises*

A 4-hour interactive workshop providing an overview of: regional exercise design; implementation and evaluation for healthcare coalitions; and exercise design for individual healthcare facilities. CMS requires facilities to develop and maintain training and testing programs that demonstrate knowledge of emergency plans and procedures, and an improvement plan process for incorporating exercise learnings that improve plans and procedures.

Get Out of Dodge: Hospital Patient Evacuation Resource Needs Drill and Functional Exercise*

A template designed for healthcare organizations that have implemented the Russell Phillips & Associates (RPA) Transportation Needs for Evacuation Tool. The drill tests facilities in the use and implementation of the RPA tool to evaluate their actual patient census for evacuation resource needs (ALS/BLS transportation, critical care, medical device resource needs and staff needs) in the event the hospital needs to evacuate their patient population.

Secret Squirrel: Hospital Surge Capacity Capability Drill and Functional Exercise*

A template designed for healthcare organizations that have implemented the Russell Phillips & Associates (RPA) Surge Capacity Planning tool. The drill tests facilities in the use and implementation of the RPA tool to evaluate their patient care areas for the ability to safely increase patient bed and treatment areas in the event of significant patient surge.

Healthcare Medical Countermeasures Tabletop*

Healthcare organizations are considered “Private Medication Centers” within Public Health Medical Countermeasures plans. The mission of a private medication center is to dispense specific medications during disasters to the organization’s pre-identified population, which may include employees, employees families, patients/clients and/or others as identified by the healthcare organization.

Committees

The Network turns competitors into collaborators by bringing together healthcare leaders to build collective preparedness and response capabilities in the Puget Sound region through a variety of critical advisory committees and work groups.

Healthcare Preparedness Committee*

Focuses on sharing best practices, knowledge transfer and insightful discussion around disaster preparedness, leading to region-wide cohesion and healthcare coordination. Per CMS, healthcare organizations are required to have a coordinated and collaborative relationship with state and local governments during a disaster, and they are strongly encouraged to plan collaboratively with local partners and healthcare coalitions.

State Supply Chain Resiliency Workgroup

Guides the development of sourcing and delivery strategies to address statewide healthcare supply chain vulnerabilities and challenges. By invitation only.

Acute Infectious Disease Advisory Group

Assists in cooperatively prioritizing and implementing regional planning and response priorities for acute infectious disease incidents. By invitation only; contact us if you are interested in participating.

Training & Exercise Advisory Workgroup

Guides the planning and programming of regional trainings and exercises conducted by the Network. Meets quarterly or as-needed; participation is by invitation only.

Healthcare Executive Response Committee

Comprised of healthcare executives and local health jurisdictions, this committee is an advisory body of executive-level healthcare representatives. By invitation only.

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Disaster Clinical Advisory Committee
This multi-disciplinary committee provides expert clinical advice on issues such as regional medical surge and crisis standards of care. It is an integral component of an ethical, transparent and clinically-responsible health emergency decision-making structure for King and Pierce counties. This committee also advises the local health officers and other policymakers during health emergencies. Meets quarterly; by invitation only.

Multi-Regional Advisory Committee
Comprised of representatives from each Western Washington region, this committee drives collaborative, strategic planning to meet coalition/partner goals regarding training and exercise, information management, patient movement and response coordination planning. Meets quarterly; by invitation only.

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