



## ARHA Policy Credentialing of Practitioners in the Event of a Disaster

(Final approval: 10-21-08)

### PURPOSE:

To define the process for the privileging of Non-Medical Staff members during and immediately following a declared disaster.

Practitioners who do not possess medical staff privileges at \_\_\_\_\_ hospital may be granted disaster privileges during any officially declared disaster, whether it is local, state, or national.

### GENERAL STATEMENTS AND GUIDELINES:

- 1) Declaration of Disaster: The President and CEO/COO of \_\_\_\_\_ (Hospital/Health System) or his designee, must declare a disaster and activate the Disaster Preparedness Plan before disaster privileging may begin. The Incident Commander, based on the disaster, may recommend to the staging officer appointment of a coordinator of volunteer practitioners. All volunteer practitioners shall report to staging.
  - 2) Immediate Credentialing: The President and CEO/COO (or designee), the Chief of Staff (or designee) or physician member of the Disaster Preparedness Committee, at their discretion, may grant disaster privileges to qualified practitioners consistent with the Hospital's Disaster Preparedness Plan, upon completion of the attached form. Consideration for those physicians who are already credentialed at an ARHA-member hospital may be granted "immediate credentialing" based on their presentation of an ARHA-member hospital ID badge. Further verification may be requested by the credentialing department.
  - 3) Termination of Disaster Privileges: A volunteer's disaster privileges may be terminated at any time without reason or cause by the Hospital President and CEO/COO (or designee), the Chief of Staff (or designee), a physician member of the Emergency Preparedness Committee or Incident Commander. The declaration by the President and CEO/COO of \_\_\_\_\_ that the disaster is over will automatically terminate all disaster privileges. Termination of disaster privileges shall not give rise to appeal rights under the Medical Staff Bylaws or any other authority.
  - 4) Post-Disaster Credentialing: Primary source verification of volunteer practitioner licensure shall begin as soon as the immediate emergency situation is under control and shall be completed within 72 hours from the time the volunteer practitioner presents to the organization. In the extraordinary circumstance that primary source verification cannot be completed within 72 hours, the nature of that extraordinary circumstance will be documented and the verification of licensure will be completed as soon as possible thereafter. Credentialing for all volunteer practitioners will be completed no longer than three months after the disaster is declared to be over. Any credentialing irregularities or issues identified will be reported to the Vice President of Legal Affairs and/or Vice President Medical Affairs.
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