



United States Department of
Health & Human Services

Office of the Secretary
Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

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

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Presentation Outline

- ESAR-VHP Overview
- Key Strategies
- Current Status
- ESAR-VHP and EMS



ESAR-VHP Mission

To establish a national network of State-based programs that effectively facilitate the use of health professional volunteers in local, State, and Federal emergency responses.

- National system of State-based programs for managing health professional volunteers
- Recruitment
- Advance registration
- Licensure and credential verification
- Assignment of standardized credential levels
- Mobilization of volunteers

Why is ESAR-VHP important?

- Volunteers practice at highest professional capacity
- Volunteers understand legal protections and liabilities
- Service delivery site confidence in volunteer competence
- Volunteers fully integrated into emergency response
- Standard classification leads to effective use of volunteers
- National standards allow for easier transfer across State lines

Building a National System

- ESAR-VHP will be a national system in the sense that the State ESAR-VHPs will be built to national standards and definitions and can be shared and utilized across State lines.
- States and jurisdictions will be encouraged to enter into agreements, creating local, State and regional surge capacity.
 - Models and best practices provided

Key Strategies

- Develop Federal ESAR-VHP Guidelines to ensure consistency across States for:
 - credential verification
 - data transfer/exchange
- Provide technical assistance throughout development
 - Educate States on legal and regulatory issues regarding use of volunteers
 - Targeted technical and operational assistance
 - Access to National Databases
 - Marketing and recruitment support
- Identify volunteers willing to be activated in a Federal emergency
- ESAR-VHP and MRC Integration

ESAR-VHP Guidelines

A comprehensive document that will serve as a “handbook” that provides a set of recommendations and approaches for developing, implementing, and maintaining an ESAR-VHP Program.

ESAR-VHP Partners

- American Hospital Association
- Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
- National Health Service Corps
- Medical Reserve Corps
- States and Territories
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- National Association of City and County Health Officials
- Health Professional Organizations
 - American Medical Association
 - American Academy of Pediatrics
 - American Psychological Association
 - Association of Academic Health Centers
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 - VetPro Credentialing System
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 - NIMS Integration Center

ESAR-VHP Professions

- 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 Technicians
- Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists
- Medical Record and Health Information Technicians
- Radiologic Technologists and Technicians

Standardized ESAR-VHP Credential Levels

- Level 1: Verified active 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)



Credential Standards and Levels for EMT/Paramedic

Credential Element	ESAR-VHP Credential Level			
	1	2	3	4
Unencumbered license or equivalent State authorization to practice*		✓	✓	
Certification/registration†		✓	✓	
Specialty certification/registration				
Hospital-active				
Clinically active		✓		
Record of adverse actions				
Inspector General status		✓	✓	✓
DEA registration				
Education or Experience				✓

- Professional Liability for Hospital
- Professional Liability for Practitioner
- Emergency Declarations
- Civil Liability Issues
- Worker's Compensation
- Licensure Portability

- Criminal Liability Issues
- Use of ESAR-VHP System Information
- Dispatching Volunteers
- Delegation of Power to Administer ESAR-VHP Functions
- Determining the Appropriate Protocols for ESAR-VHP System Use

Vision for Integration

Develop a unified and systematic approach for Local-State-Federal coordination of volunteer health professionals, in support of existing resources, to improve the health, safety and resiliency of local communities, States, and the Nation in public health and medical emergency responses

Current Status and Update

- In 2006, developed and exercised Federal Protocol
- 40 States and Territories have operational ESAR-VHP systems
- 80% of the top ten population States have operational ESAR-VHP systems
- As of April 2007, there are a total of 122,616 registered ESAR-VHP volunteers
- By the end of CY 2008, it is expected that all 50 states will have operational ESAR-VHP systems

ESAR-VHP and EMS

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