



Hackensack Meridian Ocean University Medical Center

Disaster Privileges

Medical Staff Policies & Procedures	
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PURPOSE: To provide a system whereby physicians (M.D., D.O., D.D.S.), physician assistants, and advance practice nurses may be granted emergency privileges during a local, state, or national disaster.

POLICY STATEMENT: Physicians (M.D., D.O., D.D.S.), physician assistants, and advance practice nurses, who do not possess medical staff privileges or are not employed by Hackensack Meridian Health may be granted disaster privileges to practice at the hospital during an officially declared local, state, or national emergency when resources available are insufficient to meet the needs of the incident by the President, the Medical and Dental Staff President and/or their designee. This option to grant disaster privileges is made on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the needs of the hospital and its patients and on the qualifications of its volunteer practitioners. The policy shall be implemented when the emergency management plan has been activated.

PROCEDURE:

1. Physicians (M.D. and D.O., D.D.S.), physician assistants, and advance practice nurses presenting to volunteer their services will be escorted to the Command Center for screening, credentialing processing, and assignment.
2. In order to be granted emergency privileges, a valid government issued photo identification issued by a state or federal agency (e.g. driver's license or passport) and at least one of the following must be presented:
 - A current Hospital photo identification card (must clearly identify professional designation); or
 - A current professional license; or
 - Primary Source verification of the license (<https://newjersey.mylicense.com/verification/Search.aspx?facility=N>); or
 - Identification indicating that the individual is a member of a Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP), or other recognized state or federal response organization or group
 - Identification indicating that the individual has been granted authority by a government entity to provide patient care, treatment, or services in disaster circumstances
 - Confirmation by a LIP currently privileged by the hospital or by a staff member with personal knowledge of the volunteer practitioner's ability to act as a LIP during a disaster
 - Primary source verification of licensure is obtained prior to assignment or as soon as the immediate situation is under control and is 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 (e.g. no means of communication or a lack of resources), it is expected that it be done as soon as possible. In this event, documentation is made of why primary source verification could not be performed in the required time, evidence of a demonstrated ability to continue to provide adequate care, treatment, and services, and an attempt to rectify the situation as soon as possible.

3. Verification is obtained by:
 - a. Medical Staff Services –Licensed Independent Practitioners
 - b. Human Resources – licensed personnel
4. The Executive Staff, in collaboration with the CMO/designee and/or President of the Medical Staff, grants privileges for physicians. The medical staff shall oversee the professional practice of volunteer licensed independent practitioners.
6. Identification tags will be distributed to volunteer practitioners by Medical Staff Services, Security or the Command Center personnel on a daily basis during the duration of the disaster.
7. Medical Staff Services will maintain a record of above information, including copies of required documents described above (#3).
8. The practitioner will be paired with a currently credentialed or employed physician/licensed staff member and will act only under their direct supervision.
9. A decision related to the continuation of privileges (based on the information obtained regarding the professional practice of the volunteer) will be made within 72 hours if possible. However, the practitioner's privileges will not extend past the period needed during the duration of the disaster and automatically be terminated/canceled at the end of needed services as determined by the CMO or designee/Executive Staff.
10. A practitioner's emergency privileges will be immediately terminated in the event that any information received through the verification process indicates any adverse information or suggests the person is not capable of providing offered services in an emergency.