TITLE: CREDENTIALING Non-LICENSED INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONERS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTER

PURPOSE:
To provide a mechanism for emergency credentialing and granting of privileges to non-staff or non-privileged non-licensed independent practitioners in the event of a disaster.

DEFINITION:
Any occurrence or officially declared emergency or disaster that inflicts destruction, harm, or distress and that creates healthcare demands that exceed the capabilities of the Hospital and/or the Medical Staff and/or the Allied Health Staff, whether local, state, or national.

POLICY:
The Hospital will declare the emergency in accordance with established emergency preparedness plans.

PROCEDURE:
During a disaster in which the emergency preparedness plan has been activated, the CEO, President of the Medical Staff or designee/s may grant disaster privileges to upon presentation of any of the following.

The President of the Medical Staff (or his designee) and the Chief Executive Officer (or his designee) will make the determination that additional Medical/Allied Health Staff is needed. The hospital will obtain a valid government-issued photo identification (for example a driver’s license or passport) and at least one of the following:

1. A current picture identification card from a health care organization that clearly identifies professional designation.
2. A current license, certification, or registration.
3. Primary source verification of licensure, certification or registration (if required by law and regulation in order to practice).
4. 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 the Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP), or other recognized state or federal response organization or group.
5. Identification indicating that the individual has been granted authority to render patient care in emergency circumstances; such authority having been granted by a government entity.
6. Confirmation by a licensed independent practitioner currently privileged by the hospital or by a staff member with personal knowledge of the volunteer practitioner’s ability to act as a licensed independent practitioner during a disaster.

It is recommended that the practitioner be paired with a currently credentialed medical staff member and should act only under the direct supervision of a medical staff member when possible.

The practitioner will be identified by a numbered hospital ID badge.

Primary source verification of all information related to the volunteer practitioner will be considered the highest priority. The Human Resources department will complete the primary source verification process.
as soon as the immediate emergency situation is under control or within 72 hours from the time the volunteer practitioner presents to the hospital.

If primary source verification cannot be completed within 72 hours due to extraordinary circumstances the reasons it could not be performed within 72 hours will be documented.

Evidence of the volunteers demonstrated ability to provide care will be documented. Evidence of the hospital's attempt to perform primary source verification will be documented. If due to extraordinary circumstances, primary source verification cannot be completed within 72 hours of the practitioner's arrival, it is performed as soon as possible. Verification of information is considered a high priority and will be completed as quickly as possible by the medical staff office.

A record of this information will be retained for a minimum of five (5) years. 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 rendering services in an emergency. When the emergency situation no longer exists, emergently granted privileges terminate. Practitioners will be duly informed by the incident commander or designee when services are no longer required. The practitioner will surrender the temporary name badge on termination.

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