



Using the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) for Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) Growth and Development

Introduction to ESAR-VHP

The Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) was established to provide a repository for the participation of medically and public health trained volunteers during an emergency (The Centers for Law & the Public's Health, 2010). Managed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), the national system allows for the intrastate and interstate movement of volunteers through advanced registration and credential verification. States are granted flexibility in the development of a system that meets their needs while adhering to the goals and requirements of the national network.

Requirements

To meet federal requirements, each state must create and sponsor a system that verifies the credentials, licenses and hospital privileges of potential health volunteers registered into its system. Based on each volunteer's licensure and/or permissions, they are given one of four standardized credential levels (Hannah, 2008):

- Level 1: Active Hospital Practice
- Level 2: Active Clinical Practice (non-hospital)
- Level 3: State licensure or certification (in good standing)
- Level 4: Education and experience (no verification of licensure or clinical practice)

In addition, each state ESAR-VHP system must adhere to a set of federal operational standards that requires internet-based registration that is controlled and accessed by authorized personnel, and protection of volunteer information that adheres to "federal, state and local laws of security and confidentiality" (Department of Health and Human Services).

Way forward for MRC leadership

For many states, the MRC and ESAR-VHP registration systems are connected either formally or informally. Often the connection between the programs is that the same person holds both the ESAR-VHP and MRC State Coordinator positions. Volunteer recruitment is the foundation for both the ESAR-VHP and MRC programs. Successful collaboration to increase the pool of potential volunteers will provide a wide range of resources and expertise that can be used to train, retain and acknowledge volunteers. ESAR-VHP and MRC collaboration can assist both programs by:

- Using data from the state's ESAR-VHP system to recruit volunteers in short supply from each ESAR-VHP eligible occupation.¹
- Asking ESAR-VHP registered volunteers to provide discipline specific training to MRC units and their volunteers.
- Suggesting or requiring MRC units to use the state's ESAR-VHP system as a registration database.
- Using ESAR-VHP data to research and evaluate applicable areas for improvement.
- Including an ESAR-VHP notification component simultaneously to other didactic training elements when conducting training.

¹ ESAR-VHP occupations include: Physicians, physician assistants, registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, licensed practical nurses, psychologists, clinical social workers, dentists, marriage/family therapists, pharmacist, mental health counselors, veterinarians, EMTs/Paramedics, and more. https://www.nasemso.org/Meetings/MidYear/documents/ESAR-VHP_NASEMSO_24JUNE2008.pdf

Works Cited

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