

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

1930 9th STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95811-7043
(916) 322-4336 FAX (916) 324-2875



DATE: December 18, 2007

TO: All County Medical Health Operational Area Coordinators (MHOACs)

FROM: Jeffery L. Rubin, Chief
Disaster Medical Services Division

SUBJECT: Rollout of the California Medical Volunteers System

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority is in the process of implementing the California Medical Volunteers System (formerly known as ESAR-VHP, the Emergency System for Advanced Registration of Healthcare Professionals). We would like to take this opportunity to let you know of our plans for this project and to formally invite your participation.

The California Medical Volunteer System gives you the most powerful tool in the country for registering, checking licensure, and managing the deployment of volunteer health professionals and members of disaster response teams. This system can help you meet your mutual aid obligations, medical surge planning needs, and Strategic National Stockpile/mass prophylaxis clinic staffing needs. With the California Medical Volunteers system, you'll have local control and access to healthcare volunteers.

The implementation of this system statewide will involve many tasks. As the system is brought up, there is much to learn about the process of making such a powerful tool available to you so that, in the event of an emergency, your healthcare resources are readily available and you are able to access them quickly.

The EMS Authority has started this implementation with a small group of counties. These initial nine counties have partnered with us and are committed to volunteering their time, energy and experience as we train them and make the system available for their use. Their early assistance is crucial to helping us determine the best practices with respect to the training on this system and the use of it.

It is the EMS Authority's plan to continue the rollout by groups of counties. This way proper attention can be paid to particular needs that arise during the implementation process. As there are pluses and minuses to going early versus waiting, it is probably of value to outline some of the expectations we have as to both approaches.

A clear benefit of being part of the second group of counties to rollout the system is that you will have early access to the system. Our goal for beginning the second group of counties is February, 2008. Of course, the EMS Authority's need to refine the implementation process will continue to require county staff commitment. Implementing and using this system will require a local administrator in each county. The administrator will need to be the MHOAC or

a designated representative with appropriate background and authority. In addition, the selection of an alternate is highly encouraged. They will need to commit to the implementation process, training time and to the routine needs of local administration. As a continuing development partner, you or your designee will have the opportunity to review, comment upon, and help refine the materials used in training and the process in general. In short, your feedback will help to shape the process of implementing this system.

The EMS Authority then hopes to complete the implementation with two later groups. These are slated to begin in March and April, 2008. In both of these cases, the implementation process will be more stable and the commitment of staff should be somewhat less than in the earlier groups. Still, this will require a commitment to being trained on and using the system. And, of course, we will value all feedback that we receive throughout the implementation and beyond.

There will be opportunities for you to learn more about this system in the near future. Specific hands-on training for system administrators will be held in a classroom environment. In fact, you will soon receive an invitation to a web based event (**January 15th 10:00 a.m. - 11:30a.m.**) that will give a primer/overview and answer many questions that you might have about the system. In the next week, EMS Authority staff will be contacting you to discuss your preference as to the group you would like to be in for the rollout.

Please notify Randy Linthicum of your county's group preference (i.e., to begin in February, March, or April) no later than January 18, 2008. We also recommend that you begin thinking now about who would be your choices to learn the system along with you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Randy Linthicum, Manager of the Hospital Preparedness Program at (916) 322-4336, ext. 406. Also, keep in mind that information about the program is available at <https://medicalvolunteer.ca.gov>.