



**Policy: Policy/Procedure for Credentialing Providers in the event of Declared Disaster**

**POLICY STATEMENT:** In the event an officially declared emergency disaster is activated and the immediate need of patients cannot be met, the CEO and Chief of staff or their designee may grant time limited temporary privileges to the licensed independent practitioners (LIP) who do not have current staff affiliation at Northwest Texas Healthcare System. Safeguards must be followed to assure that the LIP's are competent to provide safe and adequate care, treatment and services. The integrity of two specific parts of the usual credentialing process for determining qualifications and competency must be maintained; verification of licensure, certification or registration to practice a profession and the oversight of care, treatment and services provided.

**PROCEDURE:** The guidelines in the Emergency Management Guidebook for Volunteer Staff and this policy will be followed. When the usual credentialing and privileging processes cannot be performed due a disaster, the following modified process will be followed for eligible volunteer's.

The following information must be submitted to the Medical Staff Office or Administration of Northwest Texas Healthcare System prior to granting disaster privileges.

- 1) Valid government issued photo identification; issued by a state, federal or regulatory agency (**passport or driver's license**) and at least one of the following:
- 2) Current picture identification card from a health care organization that clearly identifies professional designation
- 3) Valid professional license or certification to practice in the United States of America.
- 4) documentation of membership with, 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; or
- 5) Confirmation by a Medical Staff Member with personal knowledge of the volunteer.

Identification badges will be required for all LIP volunteers. The process for issuing the Badge Is outlined in Emergency Management Guidebook - Staff Volunteer Practitioners.

Primary source verifications of licensure will occur as soon as the immediate emergency situation is under control, or within 72 hours. If primary source verification cannot be completed within 72 hour, the Medical Staff Office or their designee will document the reasons the process could not be completed. Evidence of the volunteer's demonstrated ability to provide patient care, treatment or services will be evaluated by a member of the Medical Staff Disaster Temporary privileges are recommended by, and require signature of the Chief of Staff and CEO, or their designee.

Disaster privileges will:

- be granted only for the duration of the disaster not to exceed 72 hours. If the situation exceeds 72 hours, continuation of temporary disaster privileges will be re-evaluated and will automatically be terminated at the end of needed services
- may be immediately terminated by the Chief of staff or his designee in the event any information is received that suggests the person is not capable of rendering care, treatment and services;
- termination of these disaster privileges, regardless of cause will not entitle the practitioner rights to a hearing or review.