

## Resource List for Florida Providers After Hurricanes

- [2024 Hurricane Milton Available Waivers for Florida Health Care Providers](#): The Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) waivers are available to Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina providers who have been affected by Tropical Storm Debby, Helene, and Milton. Healthcare providers who need additional flexibilities specific to the effects resulting from Tropical Storms can submit a request to CMS at: [cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/cms\\_1135](https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/cms_1135).
  - [2024 Hurricane Helene Available Waivers for Florida Health Care Providers](#)
  - [2024 Hurricane Debby Available Waivers for Florida Health Care Providers](#)
- [Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\) Office for Civil Rights \(OCR\) Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 \(HIPAA\) Privacy Rule waivers](#): During a public health emergency, the HHS Secretary may waive sanctions and penalties against a covered hospital that does not comply with certain provisions of the HIPAA Privacy Rule in the emergency area and for the emergency period identified in the public health emergency declaration. The HHS OCR offers [more information on HIPAA during emergency responses](#).
- [Ensuring Language Access and Effective Communication During Response and Recovery: Checklist for Emergency Responders](#): Recent natural disasters have demonstrated the importance of ensuring accessibility to health and human services for everyone living in the United States, including individuals in need of interpretation and translation services. To help first responders provide on-the-ground language assistance and communicate effectively during disasters and in accordance with federal civil rights laws, the HHS OCR offers a [plain-language checklist \(PDF\)](#), that includes recommendations, specific action steps, resources, and tips. It includes such items as to how to identify language needs in a disaster-impacted community to effectively utilizing interpreters. Additional information is available on the [HHS OCR website](#).
- [Hurricane Helene Letter to All ESRD Providers - September 30, 2024](#). Section 2280 of the State Operations Manual states for temporary closures, the provider must notify the state agency for temporary closures of more than one day of operations (including disasters). The providers are required to submit the water testing results performed after re-starting the water system to the state survey agency. If the clinic did not miss more than a day of treatments as a result of the storm, no notification is required. If the clinic missed more than one day of treatments, it is required to submit these tests.
- [Hurricane Milton After the Storm Messaging Resource Toolkit](#): This is a compiled toolkit of safety resources from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), including safety and mental health resources for those affected by the recent hurricanes, including Helene and Milton. We are asking that you please amplify this critical resource and the Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP) availability to your community. Learn more about EPAP [through the program webpage](#), which includes a video with American Sign Language interpretation to explain eligibility and how the program works. The Toolkit is also available [in Spanish](#).
- [CMS's Emergency Webpage](#): CMS plays an important role in making sure that when there is a natural disaster, manmade incident, or a public health emergency, their beneficiaries continue to get quality healthcare. CMS made these pages for patients, states, and providers, to get the information they need about emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

- [Kidney Community Emergency Response \(KCER\)](#): This website has information and resources on medical alerts, recalls, latest weather emergencies, disaster planning information for healthcare providers and state health agencies, including preparedness guides and emergency management plans and patient emergency resources.
- [HSAG Network 7 Helpline](#): 800.826.3773 and **Email**: [NW7info@hsag.com](mailto:NW7info@hsag.com)

This material was prepared by ESRD Network 7, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy nor imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. Pub. No.: FL-ESRD-7N4EDR-10152024-01