



Jeb Bush
Governor

M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.
Secretary

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 6, 2006
TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators
FROM: Nancy Humbert, A.R.N.P., M.S.N., Deputy Secretary for Health
State Director of Public Health Nursing
Women's Health Strategy Officer
B. Susser
SUBJECT: Implementation of House Bill 7121

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

After the 2006 Legislative session, House Bill 7121 passed and revised the follow statutes related to comprehensive emergency management plans (CEMP) and CEMP reviews for home health agencies (HHA), hospices, nurse registries (NR), and home medical equipment providers (HME):

- **Revises section 381.0303 (7), Florida Statutes (F.S.)** – Submission of CEMP to county health departments (CHD) by HHA, NR, Hospices and HME providers is conditional upon receipt of an appropriation to establish a position in the CHD.
- **Section 400.492, F.S.** – HHA CEMP will include the means by which the agency will continue to provide staff to perform the same level of services to their patients evacuated to a Special Needs Shelter (SpNS).
- **Section 400.492 (3), F.S.** – HHA must demonstrate a good faith effort to comply with the requirements to continue to provide staff/services to clients in the SpNS.
- **Section 400.506 (16), F.S.** – NR CEMP will include the means by which the agency will continue to provide staff to perform the same level of services to their patients that have been evacuated to a SpNS.
- **Section 400.506 (16), F.S.** – NR must demonstrate a good faith effort to comply with the requirements to continue to provide staff/services to clients in the SpNS.
- **Section 400.610 (1) (b) 1, F.S.** – Hospice CEMP will include the means by which the agency will continue to provide staff to perform the same level of services to their patients that have been evacuated to a SpNS. The hospice must also demonstrate a good faith effort to comply with the requirements to continue to provide staff/services to clients in the SpNS.
- **Section 400.934 (20) (a) 1, F.S.** – HME CEMP will include the means by which the agency will continue to provide staff to perform the same level of services to their patients that have been evacuated to a SpNS.

Because the CEMP review is only effective if conducted at a local level to ensure that it functions operationally within the local emergency plan, the Office of Public Health Nursing will cease to conduct the delegated desk audit CEMP reviews as of November 17, 2006.

No appropriations were provided by the Legislature and the Governor's office to the CHDs for positions to conduct these CEMP reviews. This allows the CHD to determine voluntarily the local priority of these reviews and the available resources to support this workload.

AHCA notifies the provider agencies to submit their plans to the county where the agency is licensed. For agencies that are licensed in more than one county, the CEMP will be sent to the CHD in each of the counties for which the provider is licensed. Each CHD will determine if and/or how they will review these CEMPs. If the CHD determines to do the reviews, they will develop internally their process for review and approval of these plans, as well as how they will communicate with the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) about the status of these plan reviews.

We have provided AHCA the contact information for the administrative offices for each of the CHDs. AHCA will post this contact information on their website to make it easier for the provider agencies to communicate with the CHDs regarding where to send their CEMPs. If the CHDs would like to provide an alternate point of contact for the AHCA web page, they may contact AHCA directly at (850) 414-6010 and ask for Ms. Noel Cronin-Lawrence (Hospice and HME providers) or Ms. Jan Benesh (HHA and NR).

We tremendously appreciate your hard work and effort to be prepared. Thank you for all that you do every day to ensure the health and safety of Floridians during disasters. You are truly public servants, dedicated to the highest calling—serving your friends, neighbors, and families in the most trying of times. It is an honor to call you a "colleague."

NH/cb

cc: Bonita J. Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A.
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