

ESAR-VHP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What does ESAR-VHP stand for?
 - The Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Healthcare Professionals.
2. What is ESAR-VHP?
 - ESAR-VHP is a secure, web-based system used by every state to register, qualify, and credential healthcare professionals BEFORE a major public emergency.
 - The program is funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response: *The National Hospital Preparedness Program*.
3. Why was ESAR-VHP created?
 - When disaster strikes, hospitals close to the event often experience an influx of health professional volunteers willing to help care for victims. History has shown that hospitals have difficulty using these volunteers because of the inability to verify identities, licenses, and/or employment.
 - The establishment of state programs built to a common set of national Emergency Credentialing standards and definitions gives each state the ability to quickly identify, coordinate, and utilize volunteer health professionals effectively in a large-scale emergency.
4. How does the Emergency Credentialing Program work?
 - Each State ESAR-VHP program collects and verifies information on the identity, license status, privileges, and credentials of volunteers who register with the web-based system.
 - Once verified, the volunteer is assigned to one of four levels, based on the type of credentials that have been verified.
 - **ESAR-VHP Credential Level 1** identifies volunteers who are actively employed in a hospital or have hospital privileges.
 - **ESAR-VHP Credential Level 2** identifies volunteers who are clinically active in any setting, other than a hospital, such as a clinic, private practice, nursing home, etc.
 - **ESAR-VHP Credential Level 3** identifies volunteers who possess an unencumbered license.
 - **ESAR-VHP Credential Level 4** identifies volunteers for whom credentials have not been verified, but who have been verified to possess healthcare education or experience. Level 4 volunteers may include students, people not yet licensed, and retired healthcare professionals.
 - This information will become part of a central, confidential database that can be accessed by participating acute care hospitals, community clinics, emergency response teams and emergency management agencies during a large-scale disaster or public health emergency.
5. Will my information be secure?
 - Yes, personal information is maintained in a central, secure database administered by the state and used ONLY for ESAR-VHP activities, such as an official request for assistance and/or recruitment for disaster training.
6. Are there fees associated with ESAR-VHP
 - No.

7. If I register, am I required to deploy when asked?
 - ☞ You always retain the right to decline for any reason.
8. What will my role be in a large-scale disaster or public health emergency?
 - Every attempt will be made to match your skills, competencies, and license or registration level with your responsibilities. You will never be asked to perform duties for which you are not qualified.
 - In addition, you will have the opportunity to choose the types of incidents for which you volunteer, the length of time for which you are willing to be deployed, and the distance you are willing to travel.
9. Will I have professional liability and workers compensation protection when deployed under ESAR-VHP?
 - ☞ Yes, volunteers enrolled in the program are eligible for state sponsored liability and workers compensation during a declared state of emergency.
 - ☞ A volunteer will not be eligible for coverage in cases of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or when acting outside of the responsibilities for which he or she was deployed, or in cases of self-deployment.
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10. How do I register?
 - ☞ Go to: <https://nhlicenses.nh.gov/MyLicense%20EnterpriseVHP/>
 - ☞ For more information on New Hampshire's ESAR-VHP program, go to: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/hsem/Terrorism/esarvhp.html>