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Disaster Preparedness and Health Information Technology

**Update for the eHealth Advisory
Committee- March 2, 2018**

Select Needs & Opportunities for Leveraging HIT in Disaster Preparedness for Consideration

1. Data Availability and Sharing
2. Health Information Exchanges (HIE)
3. Patient Unified Lookup System for Emergencies (PULSE)
4. Shelter capacity to support HIT



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Data Availability and Sharing

- Assess the state's availability of public and private health information sources and the ability to electronically share the data using HIE(s) and other health data-sharing mechanisms.
- Example: DSHS enables interstate data sharing for certain registries it maintains, pursuant to applicable law.



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HIEs in Disaster Preparedness

- HIEs can serve as key partners in disaster preparedness by facilitating access to data
- Relationships/roles need to be established in advance of disaster
- Understanding of services available through HIEs



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Patient Unified Lookup System for Emergencies (PULSE)

- Developed by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Enables provider organizations (including HIOs) and healthcare professionals to query for and view patient documents during disasters
- Functions
 - Authenticates Disaster Healthcare Volunteers providers to the PULSE Web Portal
 - Allows disaster workers to access patient documents
 - Federates queries and patient document requests to all connected data sources, including HIEs



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Shelter Capacity to Support HIT

Shelters must have appropriate capacity to support HIT

- Laptops/tablets
 - Properly maintained
 - Charged
- Credentials
- Secure Internet connectivity
- Electricity
- Support staff



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Discussion



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Thank You!

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