

Hospice Facility Emergency Rule

Due to the emergency events created by Hurricane Katrina on the neighboring states of Louisiana and Mississippi, a state of emergency has been declared. Hospice facilities that need to expand current licensed bed capacity to meet the needs of displaced hospice patients as a result of the hurricane, may temporarily expand without a Permit of Approval if the following conditions are met:

- (a) Life safety will not be jeopardized for any individual.
- (b) The immediate needs of residents and other individuals sheltered at the facility can be met by the facility.
- (c) The facility maintains a log of the additional persons being housed in the facility. The log shall include the individual's name, usual address, and the dates of arrival and departure.
- (d) The admissions and discharge log shall be de-identified and a monthly report provided to the Health Service Permit Agency
- (e) The Hospice Facility complies with all reporting requirements of other state and federal rules and regulation.

This rule is being adopted on an emergency basis and shall be effective immediately because of imminent peril to the public health, safety, and welfare. Hospice patients from states affected by Hurricane Katrina are in need of immediate care and may exceed the current capacity of existing facilities. This rule shall be effective for 120 days. Any hospice facility that temporarily expands its capacity pursuant to this rule must revert to its permit of approval capacity at the end of the 120-day period.

September 9, 2005

Mr. Jon Davidson
Arkansas Register
State Capitol, Room 026
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Our Agency is filing the enclosed rule as an emergency rule. The Health Services Permit Commission adopted this at a meeting on September 8, 2005.

Please return a date stamped copy for our records, or other proof of filing.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mary Brizzi
Planning Specialist