



# STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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*Commissioner*

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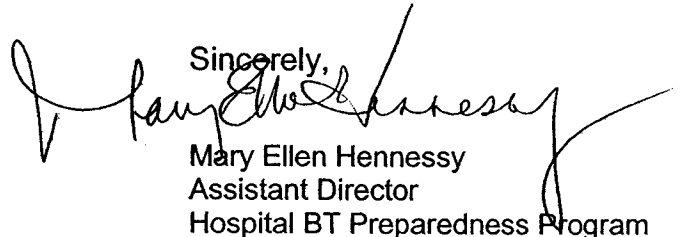
Dear Chief Executive Officer:

The New York State Department of Health has reviewed and endorsed the JCAHO revised medical staff standards for granting disaster privileges when the hospital emergency management plans have been activated. This standard allows the CEO or president of the medical staff (should they choose to) to grant disaster privileges upon presentation of any of the following when they have been overwhelmed by an event:

1. A current picture hospital ID card;
2. A current licensed to practice and a valid picture ID issued by a state, federal or regulatory agency;
3. Identification indicating that the individual is a member of a Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT);
4. Identification indicating that the individual has been granted authority to render patient care in emergency circumstances. Such authority having been granted by a federal, state or municipal entity, or;
5. Presentation by a current hospital or medical staff member(s) with personal knowledge regarding the practitioners' identity.

The New York State Department of Health continues to work on issues of credentialing as they relate to liability. We will enhance the credentialing recommendations once these issues have been addressed. For the immediate future, I hope this position assists the hospitals with continuing on with their preparedness plans.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen Hennessy  
Assistant Director  
Hospital BT Preparedness Program