

**Healthcare Coalitions in Washington State  
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Washington State is divided into nine (9) Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Regions, which has allowed for planning beyond jurisdictional boundaries to maximize hospital surge capacity throughout Washington State. Regional Coalitions take this regional hospital planning effort to the next level, and emphasizes coordination of scarce resources (for example: staff, bed capacity, equipment and supplies) among a broad group of healthcare partners. The healthcare coalition builds processes that are necessary to maximize healthcare surge during a large scale emergency.

The Healthcare Coalition brings medical and health together to coordinate mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities.

- **A Regional Healthcare Coalition** is a group, whose purpose is to maximize medical surge capacity and capability within the Region.
- The Regional Healthcare Coalition is composed of healthcare facilities, other healthcare assets within the region, tribes and representation from jurisdiction management (such as Emergency Management, EMS and Public Health).
- The Regional Healthcare Coalition:
  - Emphasizes coordination and cooperative planning of public and private medical and health assets.
  - Promotes consistent management strategies.
  - Ensures that healthcare facilities have information needed to adequately prepare for and respond to major events.
  - Builds consistency in response activities.
  - Allows for effective integration with non-medical responders at the jurisdiction level.
- Healthcare Coalitions can strengthen surge capability and capacity by:
  - Building on individual facility emergency operations plans.
  - Coordinating planning components and agreeing upon processes to manage large numbers of patients.
  - Planning for the use of shared assets or back up resources.
  - Planning for use of existing healthcare resources and assets.
  - Evaluating and revising medical surge capacity MOUs/MAAs to address the redistribution of personnel, facilities, equipment or supplies to healthcare facilities in need during times of crisis.
  - Formalizing processes for requesting and receiving mutual aid during preparedness planning.
  - Addressing issues such as credentialing, reimbursement and transfer of patient responsibility during planning.
- Healthcare Coalitions do not take the place of jurisdictional authority.
- Healthcare Coalitions integrate with jurisdictional authority (EOC) by closely coordinating preparedness planning with each local jurisdiction covered by the coalition's resources.

Reference: Medical Surge Capacity and Capability from CAN Corp  
[http://www.cna.org/documents/mscc\\_aug2004.pdf](http://www.cna.org/documents/mscc_aug2004.pdf)  
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