

# Patient Unified Lookup System for Emergencies (PULSE)

Texas Health Services Authority presentation for  
**HHSC eHealth Advisory Committee**

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# Overview

## PULSE Overview

**I. Introduction and Background**

**II. PULSE COVID**

**III. PULSE Enterprise**

**IV. Emergency Census**

**V. Q&A**

# Introduction and Background

# PULSE: Introduction & Background

- Patient Unified Lookup System for Emergencies (**PULSE**):
  - PULSE is a health IT disaster response solution deployed statewide to support disaster response volunteers and the patients they serve.
  - PULSE allows disaster response volunteers and public health officials to query and view patient documents from disparate healthcare organizations in response to pandemics and other disasters.

# PULSE: Introduction & Background

- Originally created in 2014 in California with funding from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) to be deployed in response to wild fires.
- Part of the Medicaid Health IT Strategic Plan, which was recently approved by CMS.
- PULSE encompasses three functionalities:
  - COVID-19 (pandemic) Response
  - Disaster Response
  - Emergency Census

# PULSE COVID

# PULSE COVID

- **Purpose**: Allows verified **public health authorities** to view clinical care documents (CCDs) including medications, allergies, diagnoses, lab results, and other relevant information needed to provide well-informed care for known and suspected cases of COVID-19.
- Leverages national networks and frameworks, such as eHealth Exchange and Carequality.

# PULSE Enterprise



# PULSE Enterprise

- **Purpose**: Allows authorized **disaster response volunteers** to view clinical care documents (CCDs) including medications, allergies, diagnoses, lab results, and other relevant information needed to provide well-informed care in **alternate care facilities** in response to a **declared disaster**.
- Leverages local, state, and national health information networks.

# Emergency Census

# Emergency Census

- **Purpose**: To support family reunification efforts during disasters. If a missing person is admitted to the hospital or emergency department, has been checked into or out of an alternate care facility that is connected to PULSE, the Emergency Census user will be notified in real time.
- Utilized by disaster response volunteers that have been authenticated, trained/certified to operate the PULSE system during a declared disaster.

# Questions?