

**Background and Key Elements of Crisis Standards of Care: See [Crisis Standards of Care: A Systems Framework for Catastrophic Disaster Response \(Volume 1\)](#):**

In 2009, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) asked the Institute of Medicine (now the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine—NAM) to convene a committee of experts to develop national guidance for use by state and local public health officials and health-sector agencies and institutions in establishing and implementing standards of care that should apply in disaster situations— both naturally occurring and manmade—under conditions of scarce resources. The Committee on Guidance for Establishing Standards of Care for Use in Disaster Situations enumerated five key elements that should underlie all CSC plans:

- a strong ethical grounding that enables a process deemed equitable based on its transparency, consistency, proportionality, and accountability
- integrated and ongoing community and provider engagement, education, and communication
- the necessary legal authority and legal environment in which CSC can be ethically and optimally implemented
- clear indicators, triggers, and lines of responsibility
- evidence-based clinical processes and operations.