

“Health and Medical Issues Related to Evacuating Vulnerable Populations”

National Evacuation Conference

February 3-5, 2010

New Orleans, LA

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Lessons Learned: Communication

- ① Provide all healthcare organizations and first responders with 800 MHz radios for improved communication
- ② Expand communication backup systems including ham radios and walkie-talkies

Lessons Learned: Communication

- ① Revise hospital computer downtime policies and procedures to assure necessary documents are available. Consider computer back up to a remote location.
- ① Develop a plan for the communication of critical patient information to the receiving hospitals. Consider a weekly summary for patients with long term hospitalizations

Lessons Learned: Equipment and Supplies

- ① Develop a plan that proactively addresses having available critical supplies to meet patient needs for at least 96 hours.
- ① Partner with vendors to pre-assemble and store par levels of supplies, medications, food, MRE's, etc.
- ① Timeline and plan for mobilization of these resources

Lessons Learned:

Equipment and Supplies

- ⦿ Maintain battery operated equipment in “powered up” state. All battery operated devices should have charging cables. Keep extra charging cables on hand.
- ⦿ Consider actions to preserve battery life (continuous feedings to bolus feedings)

Lessons Learned:

Equipment and Supplies

- ① Develop a supply list, regularly check inventory (warming mattresses, self inflating bags, oxygen cylinders, critical medications and fluids) adequately label expensive equipment.
- ① Consider special equipment needed during and/or evacuation (head lights, evacuation assistance devices, transport monitors and pumps, back boards, non-electrical lifts)

Lessons Learned: Transportation /Clinical and Support Activities

- ① Educate essential personnel on triage activities; HICS, NIMS education
- ① Contractual relationships with ambulance companies, buses, etc.
- ① Track patients when they are evacuated from the organization
- ① Patients must be identified before leaving

Lessons Learned: Transportation /Clinical and Support Activities

- ⦿ Upgrade facilities: build or repair heliports
- ⦿ Relocate generators above flood levels; contracts with vendors for additional fuel
- ⦿ Wells for additional water supply
- ⦿ Purchase transportation vehicles to meet potential evacuation needs, such as boats

Lessons Learned: Safety and Security

- ① Contract with outside vendors for increased security throughout disaster
- ① Facility lockdown procedures
- ① Identification of all individuals within facility during disaster event
- ① Do you shelter families and pets?

Lessons Learned: Safety and Security

- Support the physical and mental health of staff
- Shorten shifts if anxiety is high or for physical exhaustion/extreme conditions
- Hydration
- Send money with staff evacuating with patients
- Counseling post event

Recent Publications

- Bernard, Marirose & Mathews, Pamela.
“Evacuation of a Maternal-Newborn Area During Hurricane Katrina”. *MCN, The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing: July/August 2008 - Volume 33 - Issue 4 - p 213-223*
- Danna, Denise; Bernard, Marirose; Jones, John; and Mathews, Pamela. “Improvements in Disaster Planning and Directions for Nursing Management”. *Journal of Nursing Administration, Volume 39, Issue 10, October 2009.*

Recent Publications

- Orlando, Susan; Bernard, Marirose; & Mathews, Pamela. “Neonatal Nursing Care Issues Following a Natural Disaster”. *Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing*. 22 (2008): 147-153.
- Danna, Denise; Bernard, Marirose; Schaubhut, Rose; & Mathews, Pamela. “Experiences of nurse leaders surviving Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, LA, USA. *Nursing and Health Sciences* (2009).

Thank You!

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