Emergency Preparedness: Is Your Facility Prepared in the Event of a Disaster?

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Disclosures
- Nothing to disclose

Objectives
- Discuss pharmacy preparedness in various disaster events
- Review important disaster medications and distribution
- Evaluate the various services pharmacists can provide during a disaster
- Describe the role of the pharmacist and technician in a disaster event

Pharmacy is a Big Field
- Pharmacy technicians
- Pharmacy interns/students
- Pharmacy residents (PGY1, PGY2)
- Pharmacist clinicians
- Pharmacist specialists
  - Emergency medicine/Critical care
  - Pediatrics
  - Infectious disease
  - Anticoagulation
  - Toxicology
  - Heme/Oncology
  - Nuclear pharmacy

Emergency Preparedness
History:
- Oklahoma City bombing
- World Trade Center attack
- Hurricane Katrina
- H1N1 outbreak
- Orlando mass shooting
- Hurricane Harvey
- Hurricane Irma

Emergency Preparedness
- Infectious
- Bioterrorism
- Natural Disasters
- Radiation/Chemical
Influenza Pandemic

Pharmacists can:
- Counsel and educate on symptom identification and supportive management
- OTC medications
- Triage and patient referral
- Manage patients with mild illness so they do not need to access and overburden acute care settings
- Vaccinate

Vaccines

Pharmacists in all 50 states are authorized to vaccinate
- Mass vaccination clinics
- Non-traditional sites
- Community centers
- Schools

The Most Accessible Healthcare Providers

- Pharmacists vaccinated the most patients on a daily basis
- Pharmacists see patients more frequently than other providers
- They are an established and trusted part of the community

Additional Skills

Pharmacists can obtain additional skill sets
- CPR certification
- ACLS/PALS
- ATLS
- Immunization training
- Board certification

Orlando Mass Casualty

“It happened at 0300 when staff was leanest”
- Pharmacy technicians were moving patients or gathering information on patients in addition to their assigned tasks
- Pharmacy aided with restocking and filling intubation kits and code carts
Orlando Mass Casualty

- Pharmacists ensured departments were getting appropriate distribution of medications and IVs
- Drug consults for antibiotic dosing and monitoring critical drips
- Compounding IV medications
- Priming lines

Other Pharmacist Services

- Antibiotic prophylaxis recommendations
- Open fractures
- Intraabdominal
- Vaccines
- Tetanus
- Managing medication allergies
- Documenting activities for insurance reimbursement
  - Claims may not be able to be processed electronically

Audience Question

- How does your institution order and received medications in a disaster situation?
- Protocol/agreement with ordering vendors?
- Alternative drop off locations?
- Fluids, syringes, other supplies?

Medications & Supplies

- Cardinal Disaster Plan for Acquisition of Pharmaceuticals & Supplies
- Emergency Order Form kept on file that can be activated
  - Disaster-specific list
  - Patient population care list
  - Schedule II narcotic list

Medications

- Antibiotics
- Pain/sedation medications
- Rapid sequence intubation medications
- Vasopressors
- Electrolytes
- Code medications
- Antiemetics
- Respiratory medications
Prepare Ahead of Time

- Develop plan for role of pharmacy in ordering, receiving, and storing medications and supplies, including alternative care sites
- Establish agreements with vendors for ordering of essential pharmaceutical supplies in emergencies
- Determine role of employees during a disaster and managing staff required for services

Home Medication Related Assistance

Managing Existing/Home Medications

- Implementation of a collaborative practice during emergency
- Without a prescription or collaborative practice, pharmacists can only provide 72 hours of medication

Home Medications in Katrina

- Collaborative practice protocols
- Pharmacists were authorized to write prescriptions for maintenance medications
- Restricted to chronic disease management
- No antibiotics without physician assessment of the patients
- Patients must be affected by the disaster

Over the Counter Medication (OTC)

- Assess patients' ability to self treat
- Provide counseling and make recommendations on use of OTCs for minor injury/illness
- Distribute OTCs as necessary
Natural Disasters

- Pharmacists can aid in:
  - Proper storage of medications
  - Determining critical medications
- Pharmacists should be aware of other issues affecting the patient
  - Not properly hydrated or nourished, may affect medication absorption or effectiveness
- Local poison control centers can also assist in drug related questions

What if a Drug is Unavailable?

- Through collaborative practice pharmacists can make reasonable switches to other medications for the same indication
- Provide information to patients regarding non-critical medications
  - Medications that are not life sustaining may not be available, but may have low impact on patients

New Mexico is Unique

- One of the few states that grants additional pharmacist licensure
- Pharmacist Clinicians are able to diagnose and treat a wide range of diseases through collaborative practice

More Than Just Dispensing

- Aid in managing patient’s home medications, chronic conditions
- Determining alternatives and therapeutic interchanges
- Evaluating emergent/non-emergent medications
- Toxicology and poison management

Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP)

- Provides 30-day coverage for prescription medications and DME to those in federally-identified disaster areas
- 72,000 pharmacies in USA enrolled
- Must be activated by the federal government
Benefits of EPAP

- Ensures patient access to medication
- Can limit ED visits for medication refills
- Also includes certain medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, crutches, cane, & other specialty pharmacy items

Limitations of EPAP

- Does not cover all medications:
  - anti-obesity drugs
  - impotence treatment drugs
  - over the counter (OTC) drugs, such as smoking cessation
  - fertility drugs (including progesterone and leuprolide)
  - OTC vitamins
  - fluoride products
  - insulin pump (including supplies)
  - blood products
  - non-specialty implantable medications
  - allergy serums
  - drugs for cosmetic usage

Who Qualifies for EPAP?

- Limited to uninsured patients affected by a national disaster
- Any government or privately insured patient is ineligible

National Supplies

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)

- A supply of medications maintained by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
### Contents of the SNS

- Antibiotics
- Antivirals
- Antidotes
- Antitoxins
- Vaccines
- Life supporting medications
- Personal protective equipment
- Ventilators
- Other medical supplies

### Problems with the SNS

- Not an immediate source of medications
- 12 Hour Push Pack
  - Contains 90 medications considered “broad spectrum support”
- 24-36 hours after emergency
  - Vendor-managed inventory (VMI) can be sent if additional support is needed
  - Can be better tailored to the emergency

### Actions to Take Before Disaster Strikes

#### Ask Patients to Learn About Their Health

- Encourage patients to keep an updated list of their medications, with doses, routes, and frequencies
- Indications should be listed when possible
- Encourage patients to use phone applications, such as iPhone ‘Health’

#### Educate on Indications

- Patients should know which medications are vital to sustaining their lives and should be replaced quickly

#### Educate on Safe Medication Use After a Disaster

- Excessive heat or moisture can damage medications
- Replace any medication that may have been exposed to contaminated water
- Life-saving medications may be used despite potential damage/contamination
### Should Our Patients Be Stockpiling?
- A statement from the American Society of Health System Pharmacists specifically recommends against personal stockpiles
- Healthcare institutions and the SNS can help provide medications to patients

### Should Our Hospitals Be Stockpiling?
- Hospitals should not stock more than the recommended amounts of life-saving medications prior to disasters
- Institutions should work on determining appropriate min/max and par levels of medications

### UNMH Emergency Management
- Emergency Management Forms
- Facility Emergency Preparedness
- Hospital Capacity Saturation Plan
- Incident Command System
- Additional Resources:
  - Federal & State Emergency Management Plans

### Other considerations
- Automated dispensing system (Pyxis)
- Pharmogistics/Carousel
- DoseEdge
- Downtime procedures for HIT
- QS/1 Outpatient pharmacy management systems
- Baxter compounding
- Power sources
- Packaging solutions
  - PackEdge/MILT

### Conclusions
Pharmacists can provide critical services in a variety of disaster responses
- Emergency preparation planning
- Contact ordering vendors to determine disaster assistance programs
- Prepare ahead of time

### Questions