

dents have demonstrated that most patients who present at a healthcare facility during a disaster or other major emergency do not necessarily arrive via ambulance. If these reports are accurate, then hospitals and EMS systems should plan differently to prepare for a mass convergence of patients at the healthcare system and consider alternative patterns of patient referral including self-referral when performing major incident planning.

Methods: Using numerous search engines and databases, reports of patient care during or after disasters or major emergency incidents were identified. These reports were queried for specific information on how the patients presented to, or were referred to the healthcare location.

Results: Almost all case reports identified discuss the importance of the prehospital emergency care system. However, many suggest that only a fraction of the treated patients arrive via ambulance, particularly in the early post-event stages of a disaster.

Conclusions: Hospitals should develop emergency plans that consider the alternative referral patterns of patients during a disaster or major emergency. Hospital staff should be proficient in triage, decontamination, and safety and security procedures, in the event that they encounter a patient surge in their facility immediately following the onset of a disaster.

Keywords: ambulance; emergency medical services; hospital; patient surge; prehospital

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s114–s115

(182) Attitudes of the Israeli Population on Coping with Epidemic Outbreaks

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Background: Successful epidemic planning and preparation ensure that, in the case of an epidemic, there will be minimal panic, the most efficient treatment will be provided, and the population will return quickly to its pre-epidemic status.

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to determine the attitude of the Israeli population regarding epidemic outbreaks.

Methods: A questionnaire was sent to the public; information from a sample of 801 individuals representing the Israeli population; and telephone survey including every area code in Israel was performed.

Results: Of those surveyed, 82% agreed that fear causes panic, and 72% agreed to be quarantined during an epidemic, and to follow all instructions. Women were more likely than men to follow instructions.

Of those surveyed, 75% of the public believed that the media encourage anxiety and fear among the population. A total of 87% preferred that information regarding the epidemic be presented to them directly by the Ministry of Health and infectious disease experts. Of those surveyed, 94% agreed that the public health system must prepare the population before an epidemic outbreak. A total of 93% believed that there is a need to strengthen international connections for oversight and control of infectious diseases.

Conclusions: The health system must prepare the public prior to an outbreak. Information regarding epidemic outbreaks and the safety precautions that must be followed during these outbreaks should be presented to the public directly by the Ministry of Health and infectious disease experts. Women represent important communications targets. The sample population agreed to be quarantined during an epidemic and to follow all instructions. An epidemic outbreak preparedness plan using this information should be implemented.

Keywords: attitude; communications; epidemic; Israel; preparedness; quarantine

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s115

(183) Pharmaceutical Services and Preparedness in Brazil

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The Millennium Goals of the World Health Organization (WHO) include the protection of vulnerable persons. The Hyogo Declaration of the United Nations presents the need for the dissemination of information regarding disaster prevention, enhancing preparedness, and emergency response. It is imperative that governments develop and implement policies related to response for disasters such as epidemics. Brazil has a broad health system, which includes pharmaceutical services, but it does not have any established organization for dealing with disasters. The pharmaceutical services and possible areas within those services should be involved in disaster preparedness will be described, by analyzing policies and health structures that may play a role in augmenting the local response to an epidemic.

Pharmaceutical services will be characterized by reviewing official documents and legislation, and by interviewing key stakeholders. Epidemic response guidelines for pharmaceutical services will be developed based on international standards and the logical framework for pharmaceutical services in Brazil. Validation of the guidelines will be achieved by gaining consensus technique. When faced with disasters caused by natural or human interventions, this study may be critical for furnishing crucial information to decision-makers on the development and implementation of policies regarding the preparedness and response of pharmaceutical services.

Keywords: Brazil; epidemic; guidelines; pharmaceuticals; preparedness

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s115

(184) Information-Sharing Environment in Disaster and Emergency Situations

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An effective Information-Sharing Environment (ISE) is a key factor for the successful accomplishment of sensitive