Pediatric Disaster Planning
The New York State Experience
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New York State Department of Health

New York State Pediatric Disaster Planning
- Pediatric and Obstetric Emergency Preparedness Toolkit
- Disaster Mental Health: Assisting Children and Families
- Pediatric Ventilator Allocation

Pediatric and Obstetric Emergency Preparedness Toolkit
New York State Department of Health
Division of Family Health/Office of the Medical Director
Health Emergency Preparedness Program

Purpose of toolkit
- Familiarity with the Pediatric and Obstetrical Toolkit and its potential applications for hospital emergency preparedness planning
- Improved understanding of how to incorporate the needs of pediatric and obstetrical patients into the hospital’s comprehensive emergency management plan

What is it?
- Useful, expert-reviewed guidance document and planning tool
- May assist hospitals:
  - who do not currently serve children or pregnant/laboring women,
  - in accepting these patients in an emergency when there is a need

What does it contain?
- Divided into multiple sections to guide discussion of planning for emergencies involving children and pregnant/laboring women
- Contains tools that may save time/trigger discussion
**Toolkit Sections**

- Planning Guidelines
- Staffing
- Training
- Security
- Infection control
- Triage
- Decontamination and Prophylaxis
- Transportation
- Surge Considerations
- Equipment
- Dietary
- Childbirth
- Psychosocial Needs
- Family Information and Support Center

**What it is not?**

- The Toolkit is *not* a ready-made emergency plan
- It is *not* comprehensive with regard to all aspects of planning

**What We Know from Past Events**

- In an emergency, people go to the nearest or easiest to reach facility, whether or not these services are normally offered there
- Each facility is unique and needs a plan tailored to its own needs, resources, and circumstances
- Transfer of patients may not be feasible

**Recommendations for Planning Section 2**

- Develop a committee or workgroup within each hospital
- Develop an annex to the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan that relates to pediatric and obstetrical patients

**Why the Toolkit?**

- Allows hospitals to be proactive in their planning for emergency events
- Responds to special needs of children and laboring women in emergencies as illuminated by past events

**A Quick Walk-Through . . .**
Recommendations for Planning

- Establish relationships with appropriate facilities so that transfers can occur, if conditions permit
- Plan for pediatric and obstetric inpatient care if transfer is delayed/impossible

Recommendations for Planning

- Appoint coordinators
  - Pediatric/Obstetric Physician Coordinator(s)
  - Pediatric/Obstetric Nursing Coordinator(s)
- Conduct clinical training
- Conduct disaster drills involving pediatric or obstetrical scenarios

Staffing Considerations

**Section 3**

- Pre-identify staff with previous Pediatric or Obstetrical experience
- Create key Pediatric/Obstetrical Hospital Incident Command positions
- Train staff who are willing to serve Pediatric/Obstetrical patients in disasters

Training Considerations

**Section 4**

- Educate staff
  - Core Principles of Disaster Management
  - Emergency Treatment of Adult, Pediatric and Obstetrical patients

Training

- Consider needs of Pediatric/Obstetrical patients when planning training courses for staff
- Consider Pediatric/Obstetrical surge capacity whether or not hospital offers these services currently

Training Resources

- Multiple resources listed
- Includes sources for birthing simulators
Security
Section 5

- Pediatric Tracking Options
- Protocol for Rapid Identification and Protection of Displaced Children
- Child Identification Survey Form
  - Includes use of pictures for identification

Child Identification Survey

- Child demographics
- Description of child
- If the child was accompanied
- If the child was unaccompanied
- Child History/Treatment experience while at the facility
- Case Disposition/Discharge

Security

- Setting up a Pediatric Safe Area
  - Pediatric Safe Area Checklist
  - Sample Job Action Sheet for Coordinator
  - Pediatric Safe Area Registry

Infection Control
Section 6

- Guidance Documents
- Cohorting of patients
- Environmental Measures
- Care of Newborns
- Staff-to-Child Ratios

Infection Control Guidance

Symptomatic:
- Guidelines for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals (HICPAC)

Asymptomatic:
- Caring for Our Children Guidelines (AAP and APHA)
Pediatric Hospital-Based Triage

**Section 7**

- Mass Casualties Involving Children
- Triage Recommendations
- Visual Assessment of Children
- Triage Area Management

**Pediatric Hospital-Based Triage**

- Overview of Triage Recommendations
  - Communication
  - Documentation
  - Personnel
  - Job Action Sheet: Visual Inspection Officer
  - Model for Pediatric Triage
  - Color Codes for Acuity and Patient Sorting

**Children with Special Health Care Needs**

- Technology-dependent Children
- Children with Tracheostomy
- Central IV Catheters
- CSF Shunt
- Gastrostomy
- Colostomy or Ileostomy
- Ureterostomy or Nephrostomy
Decontamination and Prophylaxis
Section 8

- Decontamination Recommendations
  - Based on the age of the child
- Home Preparations of Emergency Doses from Standard (Stockpile) Formulations
  - Caution: Check that formulation given matches the handout

Transportation Guidelines
Section 9

- Within the hospital
- To other facilities
- Use of car seats

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| Carrier     | Infant carrier, stroller | Infant carrier, stroller, or car seat
Surge Considerations
Section 10

- Planning scenario
- Web sites listed for:
  - Trauma scoring/Injury severity score
  - Inter-facility transfer agreement

Equipment – Section 11

- Minimal pediatric equipment recommendations
- Further recommendations in Section 13. Emergency Childbirth

Dietary Recommendations
Section 12

- Food that needs little or no preparation
- Sample disaster menus
- Nutrition guidelines by age
- Breastfeeding is covered in Section 13. Emergency Childbirth

Emergency Childbirth
Section 13

- More “How To” than other sections
- Supplies
- Urgent maternal history
- Guidelines for uncomplicated delivery
- Care of Baby and Mother
- Psychosocial considerations
- Neonatal resuscitation
Psychosocial Needs of Children in Disasters

Section 14

- Age-specific
- Developmental and cultural considerations
- When to consult a Mental Health Professional
- Legal considerations
- Fact Sheets/Resources

Family Information and Support Center – Section 15

- Useful in mass casualty events
- Place to provide reliable information
- Assist in identification process
- Assist relatives with coping
- Enable medical staff to focus on treatment of the casualties
Resources - Web-based

- Multiple websites are listed – check these resources and download content before they are needed

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- Health Systems Emergency Preparedness
- Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
- Bureau of Emergency Management Systems
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- Bureau of Occupational Health
- Office of Local Health Services
- Central New York Regional Perinatal Center
- Emergency Preparedness Coordinator University Hospital, Upstate Medical Center

Survey completeness as of October 23 2009

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Questions?

- BML - PedsToolkit@health.state.ny.us
- Email – Jeanne Behr at jcb08@health.state.ny.us

Disaster Mental Health:
Assisting Children and Families

Acknowledgments

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Goals and Objectives

- Describe the basic developmental tasks, issues, and behaviors associated with childhood
- Identify a range of behavioral, emotional, and cognitive reactions that children may experience after a disaster
- Identify key components of informal and formal assessments of children’s post-disaster functioning
- Describe the typical presentation of posttraumatic stress disorder in children
- Understand and describe several developmentally appropriate interventions to use with children, their parents/caregivers, and their families
- Use a general understanding of cultural differences between survivors to provide culturally appropriate interventions to children and their families
- Use knowledge about how working with child survivors of disaster-related trauma may affect you as a helper in order to provide yourself self care

Pediatric Ventilator Allocation

- NYS Taskforce on Life and the Law
  - Workgroup being assembled
  - Review criteria for children

- Ventilator allocation for adults

Photo Source: www.fema.gov
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