Healthcare Emergency Coalitions: An Ebola Preparedness Perspective

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Healthcare Emergency Coalitions (HCC)

- Group of healthcare organizations, public safety and public health partners that join forces to ensure community’s health and resilience

- Support communities before, during and after disasters and other health-related crises
HCC Purpose

• Coordinate how public health, healthcare institutions, and first responder agencies will manage their efforts to enact a uniform and unified response to an emergency, specifically the medical surge aspect of an event (ESF-8)

• Does not replace day to day functioning of individual disciplines
How could functional healthcare emergency preparedness coalitions help us in this current situation?
DISASTER HEALTHCARE RESPONSE - A COALITION MODEL

Tier 1 Local
- Emergency and Trauma Care

Tier 2 Area
- Hospital and Health Care System Resources
  - Surgical
  - Critical Care
  - Specialty Care
  - Diagnostics
  - Pharmaceutical
  - Alternate Care Sites
  - Acute Care
  - Rehab

Tier 3 Regional
- Independent Health Care Resources
  - Urgent Care
  - Surgical
  - Pharmaceutical
  - Rehab
  - Alternative Care

Tier 4 State

Tier 5

Tier 6 National

SERG

Emergency Operations
Transportation
Public Health
Supply Chain
Information Sharing
Volunteers
Community Recovery
Fatality Management

Community Health Resources
- Primary Care
- Specialty Care
- Mental Health
- Social Services
- Long Term Care
- Mortuary

Vertical Response Capabilities

Horizontal Response Capabilities

Disaster

DECOMPRESSION
Detection and Screening

• Situational awareness requires up-to-date, accurate information from numerous sources (= medical intelligence reports)

• Involvement of many organizations/disciplines
  ▫ Public health
  ▫ Hospitals, clinics, and healthcare facilities
  ▫ EMS and Emergency Responders
  ▫ 911 call/dispatch centers
  ▫ Law enforcement

• Consistent screening criteria

• Common forum/communications network for dissemination of information

• RMCC (the coalition’s center) to assist in collecting and relaying data
Patient Referral/Transport

- Organized plan for safe, effective movement of patient to a healthcare facility for evaluation and care
- Organizations/disciplines
  - Public health
  - Hospitals, clinics, and healthcare facilities
  - EMS
  - Emergency Management
  - Private Sector
- Multi-disciplinary, multi-agency coalition would be useful to
  - Designate appropriate agencies and facilities
  - Ensure details of plan between agencies/organizations are linked together
Patient Evaluation and Management

• Efficient use of resources to manage the patient as well as personnel
• Cross-disciplinary collaboration
  ▫ Clinical providers and experts
  ▫ Infection control
  ▫ Supply chain
  ▫ Environmental services
  ▫ Public health and epidemiology
  ▫ Media relations
• Coalition approach would help to
  ▫ Share resources and expertise
  ▫ Manage messaging to stakeholders and public
  ▫ Ensure flow of necessary information
  ▫ Coordinate respective roles/responsibilities
The Aftermath

- Coalition collaboration to assist in
  - Continued patient and contact monitoring
  - Clean-up and disposal
  - Continued public messaging and education
- Post-event assessment and improvement
  - Comprehensive analysis of strengths and weaknesses
  - Production of an integrated plan for future events