The Pharmacists Role in Disasters

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast Wednesday, August 15, 2007 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. (Central Time)

Produced by the South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness in partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health

Faculty

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Program Objectives

- Gain insight into the changing role of the pharmacist in public health service delivery.
- Describe the roles that must be played by pharmacists during a response to a public health emergency.

Program Objectives

 Discuss lessons learned in Alabama and the Gulf about the delivery of pharmaceutical care during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Pharmacy Division Role In Disasters

Charles Thomas, BPharm, R. Ph. State Pharmacy Director Alabama Department Of Public Health

Pharmacy Division

- Basic responsibility
 Dispensing policy
 - -Implementation
 - -Implementation
- Prescription drug monitoring

 Supervise employees
- Drug information

 Primarily nurses and physicians in ADPH

Pharmacy Division

- Maximizing federal purchasing contracts
 - -340B, MMCAP, wholesalers
- Liaison
- -Pharmacy / regulatory agencies
- Consult / collaborate with public health programs
 - Nursing, dietary, social work, TB, STD, family health

Pharmacy Division

- Drug scheduling
- Advising department on pharmacy matters
- Pandemic flu / contagious diseases
- Preparedness

Areas of Activity in Preparedness

- Distribution of pharmaceuticals and clinic supplies
- Coordination of pharmacist and tech volunteers
- Coordinate access to prescriptions by patients/evacuees
- Provision of information in the EOC

Distribution of Pharmaceuticals and Supplies

- Facilitate drug deliveries to clinics and pharmacies
- SNS RSS and pods
- MNS
- Field units
- Donated drugs
- Chempack

Coordination of Pharmacist and Tech Volunteers

- Approximately 1500 pharmacists trained
 - -PODs, RSS, MNS, field hospital
 - Other areas of need- local or county clinics such as in birmingham
 - -Coordinate from EOC

Access To Medications

- Coordinate with BOP, legal, to ADPH
 - SHO issue standing prescription orders
 - BOP and others- proclamations to suspend practice act
- Vouchers for payment to pharmacists
- Medicaid / BC -
 - -Others
 - -Begin 72 hours pre-event

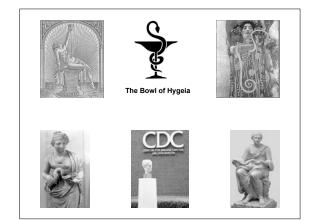
Access To Medications

- Pharmacies open in three days
 - Notify hospitals, MNS, EMA, field units, etc.
- Donated goods free clinics and pharmacies
- Normal or special deliveries by wholesaler and manufacturer
 - Facilitate deliveries security and National Guard

Pharmacists in Public Health Emergency Response

Stuart Capper Professor and Director Institute for Public Health and Pharmacy Samford University

The fundamental purpose of the Institute for Public Health and Pharmacy is to further the interactions between the professions of pharmacy and public health with the basic goal of increasing the effectiveness of pharmacist enabled preventive health services and thereby, improving the health status of our communities.



Characteristics of Pharmacy Practice Important to Public Health

- Community Pharmacies located within short distances of most people
- Community Pharmacies open and staffed extended hours
- Many pharmacists are already trained to give vaccinations pharmacist participation in immunization programs has been shown to significantly increase vaccination rates

Characteristics of Pharmacy Practice Important to Public Health

- Pharmacists provide health education information such as patient counseling for risk management and interventions to improve compliance
- Pharmacists can provide follow-up in the management of chronic diseases
- Pharmacists can provide medication therapy management services critical when patients are on substantial numbers of different drugs

Public Health Activities of Pharmacists in Katrina

- Medication-Related Activities

 Pre-event assessment of evacuees' needs for Rx medications
 - Development and execution of collaborative practice agreements
 - Assessment of individual medication (prescription and non-prescription) needs

Public Health Activities of Pharmacists in Katrina

- Medication-Related Activities

 Writing prescription orders (under collaborative practice agreement) for medications used to treat chronic diseases (maximum 30 day supply)
 - Transporting patients to local pharmacies and/or transmitting facsimile prescriptions to local pharmacies for delivery back to the shelter

Public Health Activities of Pharmacists in Katrina

- Medication-Related Activities
- Secured limited on-site supply of over-the-counter medications
- Designed medication intake form, collected data, and issued prescriptions for special need patients
- Designed security procedure for patient-carried controlled substances at the special needs shelter

Public Health Activities of Pharmacists in Katrina

- Triage Activities
 - Assessment of evacuees' injuries and health needs as they presented to local shelters
 - Assessment and treatment of minor illness with over-the-counter medications when available

Public Health Activities of Pharmacists in Katrina

- Triage Activities
 - -Assessed immunization needs
 - Triaged patients to local physicians, hospitals, and/or pharmacies based upon specific needs

Public Health Activities of Pharmacists in Katrina

- Communication/Administrative Activities
 - Recruitment and scheduling of volunteer clinical pharmacists for prescription refull and triage service
 - Obtained limited supply of overthe-counter medications for use in shelters

Public Health Activities of Pharmacists in Katrina

- Communication/Administrative Activities
 - -Communication with local emergency department staff regarding refill services
 - Established communication fax network with community pharmacies for continual event assessment

Public Health Activities of Pharmacists in Katrina

- Communication/Administrative Activities
 - Participated in county public health emergency response team meetings
 - Participated in state-level emergency response conference calls
 - Coordinated pharmacy response with state department of health

Public Health Activities of Pharmacists in Katrina

- Communication/Administrative Activities
 —Served as media resource for
 - medication-related issues
 - Assisted health officer in assessing general health situation at evacuee shelters
 - Served as an additional communication link between Red Cross and department of health

Public Health Activities of Pharmacists in Katrina

 Communication/Administrative Activities

 Coordinated local monetary donations for pharmaceutical assistance for evacuees
 Providing "hands-on" education and training to doctor or pharmacy candidates on disaster response

Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina

- Healthcare practitioners cannot abandon their practice to serve at shelters/mass dispensing sites
- The Red Cross is not in the business of healthcare
- Pharmacists can do more than dispensing drugs

Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina

- Pharmacists need to participate in preparedness training on a continuing basis
- Pharmacists need to engage in pre-event planning

An Analysis of Planning for Pharmacists in State Pandemic Flu Plans

- Among the 51 state pandemic flu plans, there were 101 mentions of the term "pharmacist"
- Of this number, 22 mentions of pharmacist were in one state plan (Mississippi)
- Forty-five percent of all state plans had no mention of the term "pharmacist"

An Analysis of Planning for Pharmacists in State Pandemic Flu Plans

- Of the 101 mentions of pharmacists in state plans, 67 mentions were evaluated as substantive
- Sixty percent of state plans had no substantive mention of pharmacists relative to respnse efforts for pandemic flu

An Analysis of Planning for Pharmacists in State Pandemic Flu Plans

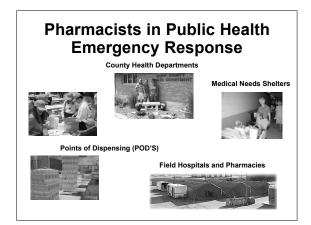
- Among the 51 state pandemic flu plans, there were 273 mentions of the term "nurse" and 702 mentions of the term "physician"
- Twenty-five percent of all state plans had no mention of the term "nurse" and 7 percent of all state plans had no mention of the term "physician"

Analysis of Sentinel Terms Representing Potential Pharmacist Functions in Pandemic Response

	Pharmacy	Pharmaceutical	Prescription	Dispensing	Stocking/ Restocking	Vaccination/ Vaccinate	Triage
Total Mention in State Plans	219	247	83	625	6	1846	0
Percent of State Plans with NO mention of Term	37%	22%	63%	27%	88%	4%	100%
Total Substantive Mention in State Plans	75	17	19	12	0	12	0
Percent of State Plans with NO Substantive mention	55%	88%	88%	86%	100%	88%	100%

It appears that less than half the states have included pharmacists in any substantive way in their preparations for pandemic flu response. Given that in addition to social isolation techniques, pharmaceutically based interventions, including vaccinations and prophylactic antiviral drugs, are likely to be the most prevalent modes of response, this is difficult to understand. It is likely that pharmacists represent the best trained and most accessible medical professionals for managing and administering pharmaceutical responses during a pandemic event. These results also suggest that in those instances where the pharmacists are being considered in pandemic flu response planning, little consideration has been given to the full range of competencies and capabilities these professionals represent. Most surprisingly, very few states mentioned pharmacists in their plans for the administrations of vaccinations. While there may be some explanation for this, such as restrictions within state medical practice legislation, this should not prohibit states from planning for the use of pharmacists in this and other roles during a declared pandemic event.





Future Programs

Conflict Management: Lessons from the Field Thursday, August 16, 2007 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. (Central Time)

Consequences of a Foreign Animal Disease on the Rural Community Wednesday, September 12, 2007 12:00-1:30 p.m. (Central Time)

For complete listing of upcoming programs visit: www.adph.org/alphtn

Future Programs

Infection Control Update 2007 Home Health Aides and Attendants Wednesday, September 19, 2007 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Working Towards Independence: Employment of Persons with Disabilities Thursday, September 20, 2007 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Central Time)

For complete listing of upcoming programs visit: www.adph.org/alphtn

Future Programs

Short-Term Birth Interval: Counseling Family Planning Patients Thursday, October 4, 2007 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Central Time)

Vector Control After Hurricanes Thursday, October 11, 2007 12:00-1:30 p.m. (Central Time)

For complete listing of upcoming programs visit: www.adph.org/alphtn

Future Programs

Collaboration: The Key to Public Health System Improvement Wednesday, October 24, 2007 12:00-1:30 p.m. (Central Time)

For complete listing of upcoming programs visit: www.adph.org/alphtn