Community Elders, Emergency Procedures, and CMS Regulations
Nurses Improving Care for Health System Elders

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Today’s Agenda

• Recent disaster and public health emergencies (PHEs)
• Challenges for preparedness and response to 21st Century threats to public health
• How can we enhance surge capacity to improve population health outcomes?
• How do we help prepare and protect community elders?
• NAM Nurse Scholar in Residence
• Nurse’s role and responsibilities in supporting the National Health Security Strategy
Recent U.S. Disasters

- Three Category 4 Hurricanes
  - (HARVEY, Irma, Maria)
- One Category 1 Hurricane
  - (Nate)
- Las Vegas Mass Shooting
- Northern California Wildfires
- Southern California Wildfires
- California Mudslides

Our World is in a State of Rapid Evolution

Climate change/global travel/EIDs/Population immunology

- How prepared are we to respond to events involving large numbers of victims?
- U.S. healthcare systems are struggling to meet the daily needs of patients.
- Our emphasis needs to be on developing appropriate levels of capabilities to address a wide range of natural disasters, terrorist bomb scares, and public health emergencies.

What does this mean for public health departments, hospitals, and providers?

Facing 21st Century Public Health Threats: Our Nation's Preparedness and Response Capabilities
Public Health and Emergency Departments

Functioning in disaster mode on a daily basis

Boston Bombings (April 2013)

Orlando, FL (2016)
Emerging Infectious Diseases

- Global antimicrobial resistance
- Rise of private interests
- Failure of the biomedical approach
- Microbial xenophobia

Ebola (2014-2016)

MERS (2015)
Zika 2015-2016

Megacities
- Global urbanization & Megacities
- 2 Billion people living in slums by 2030

Current Emerging Outbreaks & Challenges
- Yellow Fever (South America-Brazil, Tropical Africa & Central America)
- Drug Resistant Malaria (Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam)
- H7N9 influenza outbreak in China
- Influenza A (H3N2): Current flu vaccine provided limited-dismal protection
- 2017-2018 Flu season could have other bio-threat implications
- CDC to cut 80% of its efforts to prevent Global Disease Outbreaks
Pandemics

Chemical/HAZMAT Emergencies

- Industrial/Hazardous waste
- Toxic releases
- Environmental disasters
- Transportation accidents
- Chemical terrorism
- In Europe, a catastrophic chemical accident in the Italian town of Seveso in 1976 prompted the adoption of legislation on the prevention and control of such accidents (2012 the Seveso III (Directive 2012/18/EU)).

Bioterrorism

- Anthrax
- Botulism
- Plague
- Smallpox
- Tularemia
- Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers
Radiation / Nuclear Emergencies

- Nuclear power plant emergencies
- Industrial radiation releases
- Radiation Dispersal Devices (RDDs or “dirty bombs”)
- Nuclear level weapons

Hurricane Katrina 2005

- Older adults experience the greatest casualties after a natural disaster as compared to other age groups experiencing similar events.
- Hurricane Katrina Mortality: 45% of the lives taken were of persons 75 years or older. Those who lived outside of nursing homes were assumed to be abandoned by caregivers.
- These poor outcomes arguably highlight the gaps in disaster preparedness, planning, and interventions for older adults.

Hurricane Katrina Casualties, by Age Group

FEMA Disaster Case Management Program Evaluation

Quality of Health Care Services in Disaster Shelters, 2017
Veenema, T., Rains, A., Losinski, S., Budhathoki, C., Schneider-Firestone, S.

- Acuity of patient illness
- Burden of Chronic illness
- Type of health care services rendered
- Patient disposition
- Patient Outcomes
About two weeks after Hurricane Sandy hit in 2012, the New York Times reported that close to half of those who died in the storm were 65 or older. Many of these elderly victims drowned at home; others died from storm-related injuries, hypothermia and other causes.
Hurricane Irma 2017

- 14 Nursing homes residents perished
- Heat >99 degrees for three days post storm impact

U.S. National Preparedness

Are We Ready?

- Post 9/11 enhancements
- Current administration not supportive of environmental/public health system (significant cuts in funding looming)
- Are nurses & other health care workers PREPARED, READY and WILLING to respond?
- Are Hospitals and health care facilities ready to respond?
- Are community organizations prepared for these events?

National Health Security Strategy & Federal Disaster Planning Documents
Personal Preparedness for Older Adults & Their Caregivers

- Preparedness Resources for Individuals, Families, and Caregivers: Administration on Aging
- Disaster Preparedness Guide for Elders: Florida Department of Elder Affairs
- Disaster Planning Tips for Older Adults and their Families: CDC Healthy Aging Program
- Ready.gov: Older Americans: Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Florida, Seniors and the Fire: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Older Floridians Handbook: Laws and Programs Affecting Older Floridians: Florida Justice Institute, Inc., with Carlton Fields and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs
- Disaster Preparedness Tip Sheets for Seniors: California Department of Aging

ARC Disaster Preparedness Resources for Older Adults

- DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: For Seniors By Seniors
- READY: Preparing Makes Sense for Older Americans.

These booklets are available through the ARC Website.

Caring for Older Adults in Disasters: A Curriculum for Health Professionals

- Conditions present in the older adult: Dementia, hearing loss, vision loss, and more
- Issues related to specific types of disasters
- Considerations for care of older adults throughout the disaster cycle
- Topics related to specific settings in which older adults receive care
- Ethical and legal considerations

NCDMPH National Center for Disaster Medicine & Public Health
http://ncdmph.usuhs.edu
CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule

Risk Assessment and Emergency Planning

- Hazards likely in geographic area
- Care-related emergencies
- Equipment and power failures
- Interruption in communications, including cyber attacks
- Loss of all/portion of facility
- Loss of all/portion of supplies
- Plan is to be reviewed and updated at least annually

Communication Plan
- Complies with Federal and State laws
- Integrated with Federal and State preparedness
- Not coordinated within the facility

Policy and Procedures
- Complies with Federal and State laws
- Training and Testing
- System to contact staff, including patients’ physicians, other necessary personnel

Well-coordinated within the facility, across health care providers, and with state and local public health and emergency agencies.

CMS EP Training and Exercise Guidelines

- Earthquakes
- Tornadoes
- Hurricane
- Flooding
- Fires
- Cyber Security Attack
- Single-Facility Disaster (power outage)
- Medical Surge (i.e., community disaster leading to influx of patients)
- Infectious Disease Outbreak
- Active Shooter

NAM Nurse Scholar Project: National Nursing Workforce Readiness for Radiation/Nuclear Events
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• What is the current capacity of U.S. Schools of Nursing to prepare for and respond to radiation emergencies (e.g., faculty expertise, program content, existing response plans)?
• What action steps need to be taken to increase national nurse readiness for a radiation/nuclear event?
• What are the potential public health implications of failure to address these gaps?

Why is this work important?

• Current instability in the global geopolitical climate has made the exchange of nuclear weapons or a terrorist attack upon a nuclear power plant a potential reality.
• Lives can be saved, even in the event of a nuclear detonation
• Nurses must respond to the call for prepare a global nuclear health care workforce
• Nurse safety
Radiation/Nuclear Emergencies are Nursing-Intensive Events

- Community screening (biodosimetry)
- Triage
- Decontamination
- Medical countermeasures
- Burn Care
- Palliative Care
- Counseling and mental health
- Recovery of the Health System
Disaster Nursing App

- Exciting new mobile application or "app" for the iPhone and iPad called DISASTER NURSING
- Evidence-based, competency driven
- Provides nurses and nurse leaders with a real time reference and evidence-based resource for crisis decision making and clinical leadership

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