Enhancing Medical Surge Capacity

Melissa Harvey, RN, MSPH
Director, National Healthcare Preparedness Programs

Need for a New Approach to Health Care Emergency Preparedness and Response

• Casualty estimates for 21st-century threats (and some old threats) far exceed the capacity and capability of the current health care system
• Health care preparedness and response is fragmented and uncoordinated across jurisdictions
  ▪ Hospitals do not routinely plan, train, or exercise together
  ▪ Communications during disasters are incomplete
  ▪ Situational awareness of health care operating status is challenging
• State access to federal health care teams and equipment is limited in non-Stafford Act events
• National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) and HPP require updating to meet current challenges
Existing Health Care Preparedness Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule</th>
<th>Hospital Preparedness Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Effective November 2017</td>
<td>• Development of health care coalitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Risk assessment and emergency planning</td>
<td>• Two or more hospitals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Policies and procedures</td>
<td>• Public health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Communications plan</td>
<td>• Emergency management organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Training and testing</td>
<td>• Emergency Medical Services (EMS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hospital Preparedness Program**

- Development of health care coalitions
- Two or more hospitals
- Public health
- Emergency management organizations
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- 2017-2022 *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capabilities*
- Foundation for Health Care and Medical Readiness
- Health Care and Medical Response Coordination
- Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery
- Medical Surge

Key Elements of a Potential Regional Disaster Health Response System

Building Regional Surge Capacity

Enhance Health Care Coalitions

ASPR

Improve Regional Coordination

- Regional Structure
  - Sharing of resources across jurisdictions
    - Medical EMAC
  - Common plans, procedures, and policies
  - Placement of federal resources within the region
    - Deployment of resources by state governor
  - Localized centers of excellence that can provide expertise for complicated injuries/illnesses

Expand Response Partners

- Responsive
  - Expand the capacity and capabilities of health care system
    - Expand NDMS hospital membership to all hospitals
    - Hospital sponsored Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT) in each state
      - Increases response team capacity by ~100%
      - Increases care capability
    - Using telemedicine and mobile teams to provide subject matter expertise across the system
  - Engagement of EMS
  - Revised engagement of VA and DoD
    - VA sponsored teams, training
  - Training of civilian community
Enhance Awareness

- Situational Awareness
  - Collecting and sharing information on a daily basis
  - Developing essential elements of information for operational decision-making
  - Regional and state-level operations centers to collect and analyze data
  - Using databases to assess population health demographics in affected areas to inform response

Ensure Readiness to Respond

- Focus on readiness
  - Readiness standards
    - Training in chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives and in Incident Command System principles
    - Standardized protocols, procedures, policies
  - Readiness exercises evaluated by ASPR
  - Designation as a "Response-Ready" coalition
Improve Federal Programs

- Modernization of National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)
  - Better-trained teams
  - Hospital-sponsored teams
  - Incorporation of EMS
  - Increase number of NDMS hospitals
- Integrate the Medical Reserve Corps
- Update HPP
  - Direct funding to entities other than state health departments
  - Use of risk-based formulas

Questions?