

Louisiana Pediatric Disaster Surge HOSPITAL PLANNING TEMPLATE

Overview

Introduction

This plan template is designed to assist hospitals with incorporating pediatrics into existing emergency operations plans (EOP), policies and procedures. Many elements outlined within this document are suggestions of baseline considerations for hospitals to expand upon when building out their EOPs to be more inclusive of at-risk populations. This document may serve as a stand-alone plan or as a specialty annex to existing plans.

Background

Children account for approximately 25% of the nation's population. Due to their unique anatomical differences, special attention should be given to the considerations and impact to emergency operations when planning for emergencies that involve pediatric populations. Programs such as the national Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) and the Hospital Preparedness Programs (HPP) work together collectively with subject matter experts from healthcare facilities, EMS agencies, and the state chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to endorse and relay the importance of pediatric disaster planning.

Purpose

Hospitals designated as Children's hospitals or with significant pediatric capability and capacity likely have EOPs inclusive of the pediatric population they routinely serve. However, through the National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) survey conducted by EMS for Children (EMSC) we know that nearly 75% of hospitals in Louisiana reported annually seeing medium to low numbers (44% see low amount, average of 5 or less patients per day; 35% see medium amount, average of 6-13 pediatric patients per day) in their Emergency Departments (EDs). The common protocol for pediatric patients arriving at EDs needing advanced, specialized care and admission is to transfer patients to nearest children's hospital or tertiary facility with pediatric capabilities. During times of disaster normal systems and processes may be overwhelmed and the probability of pediatric patients presenting in surges to hospitals with limited capability should be expected. This template may assist hospitals in planning for a surge of pediatric patients.

Assumptions

- Pediatric or children's hospitals may be overwhelmed with receiving high volumes of pediatric patients or more critically ill/injured pediatric patients
- EMS agencies prefer to not separate family members, presenting pediatric and adult patients to single receiving facilities when possible
- Pediatric patients often are not transported to the hospital by way of EMS, rather arrive in the ED by family or caregivers. (Source: National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey)
- The public is unable to distinguish a hospital with pediatric capabilities.
- All hospitals maintain emergency operations plans (EOPs) among other policies and procedures that may outline standard operating procedures relevant to disaster response.
- In disaster situations, some hospitals may be able to utilize adult beds and equipment for treatment of older pediatric patients.
- Pediatric patients are anatomically different from adult patients and clinical considerations should be given to each age group as the needs and treatment modalities differ greatly with this population.

Planning References & Resources

A hospital may decide to build upon specific key function areas of their pediatric plan. The following chart provide valuable resources accessed to inform the content included in the template. Hospitals may wish to further research and expand upon topic areas that are of high interest or importance to their response to a disaster which may involve pediatric patients. The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources Assistance Center and Information Exchange (TRACIE) platform is a primary source to links of key planning tools, articles and other sources of information utilized in the development of the template. <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov>

PLANNING TOPIC AREA	LINKS TO ONLINE RESROUCES
General Planning & Risk Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota Pediatric Surge Primer and Template Plan. https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/surge/pediatric/primer.pdf • American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Pediatric Tabletop Exercise Resource Kit and Other Key Resources for Disaster Preparedness. https://collaborate.aap.org/tabletopexercises/Pages/default.aspx?nfstatus=200&nftoken=b07620fb-d2ca-4bc5-bfa0-ebab2839d897&nfstatusdescription=Set+the+cookie+token • Hospital-based disaster preparedness for pediatric patients: how to design a realistic set of drill victims https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18666514/ • EMSC Innovation & Improvement Center. Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Toolkit -Training Resources & Courses. https://emscimprovement.center/education-and-resources/toolkits/pediatric-disaster-preparedness-toolbox/ • NYC Department of Health, Children in Disasters: Hospital Guidelines for Pediatric Preparedness. https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/bhpp/hepp-peds-childrenindisasters-010709.pdf • “Pediatric Care” Medical/technical Specialist, Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) Job Action Sheet. https://emsa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/71/2017/07/Pediatric-Care.pdf
Medical Surge – including triage and treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHRQ - Hospital Surge Capacity in Public Health Emergencies. http://www.apic.org/Resource_/TinyMceFileManager/Practice_Guidance/Emergency_Preparedness/AHRQ_Pediatric_Surge_Capacity_in_Public_Health_Emergencies.pdf • CHEST Consensus statement, Introduction and executive summary: care of the critically ill and injured during pandemics and disasters: https://journal.chestnet.org/article/S0012-3692(15)51985-5/fulltext?_ga=2.117542219.358956001.1641934098-1184698619.1641934094 • NYC Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene & Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Patient Surge in Disasters: A Hospital Toolkit for Expanding Resources in Emergencies. https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/emergency-prep/hospitals.page • US DHHS & ASPR, Healthcare Coalition Pediatric Surge Annex. https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/aspr-tracie-hcc-pediatric-surge-annex-template-final-508.pdf
Evacuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Life Disaster Relief. (2021). Retrieved from https://cldisasterrelief.org/ • FEMA, Evacuating the Special Needs Population. https://training.fema.gov/programs/emischool/el361/toolkit/assets/evacuatingspecialneedspopulation.pdf • Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, Preplanning Disaster Triage for Pediatric Hospitals - TRAIN Toolkit. http://cdphready.org/preplanning-disaster-triage-for-pediatric-hospitals/

Transfer Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US DHHS & ASPR, Maternal-Child Health Emergency Planning Toolkit. https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/abc/mch-planning-toolkit/Documents/MCH-Emergency-Plng-Toolkit-508.pdf • US DHHS & ASPR, Pediatric Preparedness for Healthcare Coalitions [Webinar]. https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/abc/Documents/PediatricCoalitions-20130620.pdf • Telehealth in Pediatric Emergency Medicine. Current Problems in Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1538544221000079?via%3Dihub • EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center, Interfacility Transfer Toolkit. https://emscimprovement.center/education-and-resources/toolkits/interfacility-transfer-toolbox/
Patient Tracking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council, Reunification Subcommittee. Family Reunification Following Disasters: A Planning Tool for Health Care Facilities. https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP%20Reunification%20Toolkit.pdf • FEMA Ready Campaign, Post-Disaster Reunification of Children: A Nationwide Approach. https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/201906/post_disaster_reunification_of_children.pdf • US DHHS & ASPR TRACIE, Topic Collection: Family Reunification and Support. https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/64/family-reunification-and-support/0 • Texas Children’s Hospital, Family Reception Center Plan. https://media.emscimprovement.center/documents/TCH_FRC_Plan_-_1.24.2019_Approved.pdf
Decontamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illinois EMSC Decontamination Checklist. https://www.luriechildrens.org/globalassets/documents/emsc/disaster/other/pediatricdecontaminationchecklistjune2017.pdf • Principles of Pediatric Decontamination. Clinical Pediatric Emergency Medicine. http://www.ny2aap.org/pdf/Disaster/186.pdf • JumpSTART Pediatric Triage Algorithm - CHEMM. Retrieved from https://chemm.hhs.gov/startpediatric.htm
Infectious Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pediatric Infectious Disease Society (PIDS) online COVID-19 topic collection. https://pids.org/resources/covid-19-resources/ • Oxford, Journal of the PIDS – clinical journals. https://academic.oup.com/jpids/issue/11/8
Behavioral & Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAP, Policy Statement 2014, Death of a Child in the Emergency Department. https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/134/1/198/62303/Death-of-a-Child-in-the-Emergency-Department • Pediatric disaster preparedness in the medical setting: integrating mental health. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19739456 • The Emotional Impact of Disaster on Children and Families. https://www.menominee-nsn.gov/Covid/Disasters_PEDs_Module_CDC.pdf • The National Child Traumatic Stress Network. Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR). https://learn.nctsn.org/course/index.php?categoryid=11
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Commission on Children and Disasters. (2010). Appendix E: Standards and Indicators for Disaster Shelter Care for Children. https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ohsepr/nccdreport.pdf