

Pediatric Long-Term Care Disaster and Pandemic Planning

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Introduction: Children are frequently victims of disasters. However, significant gaps remain in pediatric disaster preparedness planning. This includes a lack of planning for pediatric residents in long-term care facilities. The New York City (NYC) Pediatric Disaster Coalition (PDC) is funded by the New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to improve NYC's pediatric disaster preparedness and response. The NYC PDC partnered with experts in pediatric disaster management and the care of pediatric residents in long-term care facilities to create the Pediatric Long-Term Care Planning Committee (PLTCPC).

Method: The PLTCPC included physicians, nurses, administrators, and emergency planning experts. The PLTCPC's goal was to create guidelines and templates for use in disaster planning for pediatric residents at long-term care facilities. The committee met bi-weekly over three months and shared facility resources to create tools that meet the specific challenges presented by this population.

Results: Utilizing an iterative process that included a literature review, participant presentations, review and improvement of the working documents, the final guidelines and templates for surge and evacuation of pediatric residents in long-term care facilities were created. Due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NYC PDC reconvened the PLTCPC to focus on surge planning for pandemics at pediatric long-term care facilities. Two pediatric infectious disease clinicians were added to the committee. Utilizing the same process delineated above, a detailed pandemic specific annex was created based on clinical pediatric experience gained throughout the pandemic.

Conclusion: To the authors' knowledge, these are the first pediatric-specific resources for long-term care disaster planning. They address the importance of matching resources to the unique needs of PLTC facilities, in regard to space, equipment, staffing, and training. Pediatric long-term care facilities present special needs during pandemics and this approach can be utilized as a model for other facilities.

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Innovations in Disaster Preparedness Training: An Emergency Preparedness Curriculum within a Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship

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Introduction: Improved understanding of pediatric emergency preparedness can ensure the safety of children during disaster events, a population that is often overlooked.^{1,2} One method to minimize disparities is to increase the pediatric preparedness workforce by providing education to trainees about the foundations of this field.

Method: A pediatric emergency preparedness curriculum was created as part of an elective prehospital track within a pediatric emergency medicine fellowship program at a quaternary pediatric hospital.

Results: The curriculum focuses on three domains: education, research, and administration. The trainee is required to participate in local and regional educational opportunities. Locally, trainees create and facilitate at least one tabletop exercise about a preparedness topic of their choice. They also attend regional and state-wide preparedness drills to foster better understanding of integrated system processes. Additional educational opportunities involve the creation of asynchronous learning modules for their division and development of just-in-time resources for disaster events. For research, they have the opportunity to pursue an original project in the field and participate in other research activities with the track director. The administration domain prepares the trainee to be a leader in the field. Trainees are active participants within the emergency department's preparedness committee and during hospital-wide preparedness meetings. These meetings develop protocols and policies as well as educational initiatives. Fellows are also encouraged to join national collaborative preparedness efforts through the American Academy of Pediatrics and the EMSC innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC).

Conclusion: This curriculum provides an introduction to and continued education about disaster preparedness to pediatric emergency fellows early in their career. Completion of the sub-track fosters future leaders in the disaster medicine field. In the future, this curriculum can be adopted by other medical training programs to expand understanding of pediatric preparedness concepts.

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Region V for Kids: A Pediatric Center of Disaster Excellence—Four years of Experience Creating an Improved Network Within the Disaster Cycle for Children and Families in the USA

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Introduction: Region V for kids (originally known as Eastern Great Lakes Consortium for Disaster Response) is one of the US-ASPR (Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response) funded Pediatric Center of Disaster Excellence (PCOE), serving nearly 12 million children and families in a six state region of the United States.

Method: The original goals set forth were: to develop a coordinated pediatric disaster care capability, strengthen pediatric disaster preparedness plans and coordination, enhance state and regional medical pediatric surge capacity, increase health-care professional educational competency and enhance situational awareness of pediatric disaster care across the spectrum.

Results: The COVID-19 pandemic occurred shortly after original funding and caused a pivot from preparation to response for the partners, enhancing the collaboration and coordination for the region. The many lessons from the