When the Unexpected Happens: Pharmacy’s Role in Disasters
Edwards, C.
Banner University Medical Center Tucson, 1501 N. Campbell Ave, Tucson, AZ 85724, USA. Email: Christopher.Edwards@bannerhealth.com
Gaither, J.
Dervay, K.
Jen, C.

Pharmacists and pharmacy departments play an integral role in preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters. This session will familiarize participants with an overview of what to expect during mass casualty incidents and natural disasters by using specific, real world examples. Lessons learned from real world examples will help participants anticipate the injury patterns and pharmaceutical needs of disaster victims and incorporate these needs into a comprehensive disaster management plan.

Learning Objectives:
• Apply the principles of mass casualty incident (MCI) triage to a group of patients such that interventions are prioritized during an MCI response.
• Predict pharmaceutical needs based on injury patterns or disease states common in specific disaster scenarios.
• Identify pharmaceutical needs and develop a disaster management plan related to inventory requirements prior to, during, and after the event.

Self-Assessment Questions:
1. You are a hospital pharmacist at a 600 bed tertiary care hospital when you are told that a mass shooting event has just occurred. Where do you fit into the Incident Command System?
   a. Finance
   b. Logistics
   c. Operations
   d. Planning

2. You are working the evening shift in a busy ED when the hospital activates a disaster event due to an explosion at a music festival. What injuries can you expect to see?
   a. Radiologic burns from a dirty bomb
   b. Penetrating eye injuries
   c. Crush injuries
   d. Blunt trauma

3. You are the only pharmacist on duty in a 300 bed hospital. You receive a call from the ED charge nurse indicating an anticipated large influx of patients from a manmade disaster. What is your next step?
   a. Check social media and news for info
   b. Start calling in extra staff
   c. Locate and review the emergency operations plan and notify pharmacy and hospital leadership
   d. Call EMS director and determine MCI type and expected number of casualties

Answers: 1. (c); 2. (c); 3. (c)

©2017 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists