

SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

During a mass casualty or terrorist event, it is recognized that all hospitals, even those that are not a pediatric trauma center or a specialized pediatric hospital, might receive critically ill or injured pediatric patients. Additionally, it is acknowledged by the health care community that there has been limited attention to the specific needs of the pediatric population and their families in disaster response preparation. This planning gap was recognized by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). As a result, the NYCDOHMH and its Centers for Bioterrorism Preparedness Planning (CBPP) developed a document entitled Hospital Guidelines for Pediatrics in Disasters.

The Department would like to acknowledge the Division of Family Health toolkit committee members for their advocacy for the needs of women and children during times of emergency and for providing leadership for this project. Without their dedication to the subject, this document would not have been possible. The goal of this effort was to provide hospitals, especially those that do not normally admit children, or have no Pediatric Intensive Care Services or Obstetrical/Newborn services, with some useful, proactive planning strategies and tools for providing protection, treatment, and acute care for pediatric and obstetric patients during a disaster. The following hospital guidelines and recommendations for children in disasters initially developed by New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene have been modified by the New York State Department of Health to address the needs of suburban and rural upstate hospitals and to address the needs of obstetrical patients. The New York State Department of Health wishes to thank NYCDOHMH for their willingness to allow for adaptation of their work to a statewide perspective.

FOCUS OF GUIDELINES

The intent for this toolbox is to provide hospitals without pediatric or obstetrical services, hospitals without pediatric intensive care services, and hospitals without pediatric trauma services with help in planning for care of pediatric and obstetrical patients in emergencies. Fifteen topics related to pediatric and obstetric disaster preparedness were selected:

- Decontamination of Children Planning Guidelines
- Dietary Needs of Children
- Emergency Department Surge Considerations and Inpatient Bed Assignment Security
- Emergency Preparedness for Childbirth
- Equipment for Pediatric Disasters
- Family Information & Support Center
- Infection Control Considerations
- Pharmaceutical Needs
- Psychological Needs of Children
- Planning Guidelines
- Staffing Recommendations
- Security
- Training Recommendations
- Transportation of Pediatric Patients
- Triage

General guidelines and suggested educational resources for each of these fifteen topics follow.

Pediatric and Obstetrical Emergency Preparedness Tool Kit

It is recognized that the toolkit is not comprehensive with respect to all aspects of planning for the special needs of the pediatric and obstetric population. What it does provide is useful, expert-reviewed guidance documents and planning tools that should greatly reduce the amount of plan development and preparation time for each individual hospital.

PEDIATRIC & OBSTETRICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT

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