

# Surge Management

**For Planning, Response and  
Recovery**



# What is Surge Capacity?

The ability of a healthcare system to rapidly expand beyond normal services,

and,

To meet sudden or sustained increased demand for medical care.

# Why plan for Surge?

The U.S. healthcare system, overall, is woefully unprepared to effectively handle large numbers of casualties caused by man made or natural disasters such as hurricanes or infectious disease outbreaks, and because IT happens.

# Surge Capacity vs. Capability

## Surge Capacity:

- The ability to evaluate and care for a markedly increased volume of patients – one that challenges or exceeds normal operating capacity.

## Surge Capability:

- The ability to manage patients requiring unusual or very specialized medical evaluation and care, e.g.,

# Overcoming Challenges and Meeting Our Goal

- What key principle will guide our response?
- What do planners need to consider in developing a plan?
- What important issues must be addressed?
- What information, tools and models are available as resources?

# Key Principle

- We will work to maximize lives saved, which must include our staff and our patients

# Planning For A Surge

- Surge conditions may last for months not just days
- Your other patients have needs also
- The usual scope of practice may not apply
- External events will impact internal response

# Planning Continued

- The time of day or month may matter
- Communications, both internal and external, will be challenged
- Staff challenges will create the need for flexibility both during and after the event
- Some staff may not be yours

# Planning Continued

- Supplies and supply chain disruption may occur
- Transportation and Fuel issues are problematic
- Utility failure will shut you down
- Alternate facilities and COOP planning a new challenge

# Planning Final

- Leadership at every level will matter
- Security of staff, patients and facility is paramount
- Cash and Financial Management may be more damaging to the facility than wind and water
- There is no one size fits all response– the nature of the event matters – Incident Management/Situational Awareness critical!

# Important Issues

- Do we know our communities health?
- Can we communicate with public health and disaster leadership?
- Who is making the decisions during a disaster (and can we count on them)?
- When we need help where does it come from and do we know how to access it?

**Questions?**

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