Overwhelmed: Developing crisis standards of care for catastrophic emergencies

When a nation or region prepares for public health emergencies such as a pandemic influenza, an earthquake, or any disaster scenario in which the health system may be stressed to its limits, it is important to describe how standards of care would change due to shortage of critical resources. “Crisis standards of care” is defined as a substantial change in usual healthcare operations and the level of care it is possible to deliver, which is made necessary by a pervasive (e.g., pandemic influenza) or catastrophic (e.g., earthquake, hurricane) disaster. To ensure that the utmost care possible is provided to patients in a catastrophic event, nations/regions need a robust system to guide the public, healthcare professionals and institutions, and governmental entities at all levels. Building off the work of the United States Institute of Medicine, Guidance for Establishing Crisis Standards of Care for Use in Disaster Situations, this session focus on opportunities and challenges to integrate crisis standards of care principles into international disaster response plans.

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss the challenges of providing fair and equitable care in mass casualty incidents
- Discuss a potential framework for the equitable delivery of care in situations of scarce resources and strategies for operationalizing crisis standards of care in austere environments
- Examine strategies for integrating crisis standards of care principles into disaster response plans
- Highlight the impact of international disaster response on changing the standard of care in the host country
Agenda: (based on a 3.5 hr session)

1:45 p.m.  Introduction: Session Objectives
          MARK KEIM, Session Chair
          Senior Science Advisor
          Office of the Director
          National Center for Environmental Health
          Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

1:55 p.m.  A Model for Equitable Delivery of Care in Situations of Scarce Resources
          DAN HANFLING
          Institute of Medicine Committee Vice-Chair
          Special Advisor
          Emergency Preparedness and Response
          Inova Health System, USA

10 min Q&A

2:50 p.m.  Operationalizing Crisis Standards of Care: The Japanese Experience
          YOSHIKURA HARAGUCHI
          Division of Pathophysiology in Disaster (retired)
          National Hospital Tokyo Disaster Medical Center
          Tachikawa City, Tokyo, Japan

10 min Q&A

3:15 p.m.  BREAK

4:00 p.m.  Providing Austere Care in Mass Casualty Incidents: Experiences from Latin America
          JEAN LUC PONCELET
          Area Manager in Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief for Latin America and the Caribbean
          Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization

10 min Q&A

4:25 p.m.  International Health Regulations Treaty: The Grand Experiment
          FREDERICK “SKIP” BURKLE
          Senior Fellow, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
Panel Discussion: Integrating Crisis Standards of Care Principles into International Disaster Response Plans

- How can principles of crisis standards of care be better integrated into existing health systems?
- Examine strategies to facilitate operationalizing crisis standards of care in austere environments.
- Explore the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in the implementation of crisis standards of care.

MARK KEIM, moderator
Senior Science Advisor
Office of the Director
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ZI-JIAN FENG
Director
Office of Disease Control and Emergency Response
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YOSHIKURA HARAGUCHI
Department of Surgery (retired)
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JEAN LUC PONCELET
Area Manager in Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief for Latin America and the Caribbean
Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization

FREDERICK “SKIP” BURKLE
Senior Fellow, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
Harvard School of Public Health

5:30 p.m. ADJOURN