

**Assessing Medical
Preparedness
for a Nuclear Event:
IOM Workshop**

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Hospital Preparedness (HPP) Grant (Year 5)

- Previously called the National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program (NBHPP) under Health Resources and Services Administration
- Moved under direction of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response in 2006 after passage of the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act
- Focus is all-hazards preparedness, not just bioterrorism

HPP

- Hospitals, health facilities, and emergency medical services (EMS) agencies work with state/local health departments to acquire funding through the HPP.
- Funding is distributed directly to the Health Department of the State or political subdivision of a State (City or County).
- Los Angeles, New York City, Chicago, and Washington DC considered on par with the States, due to high risk.

HPP

- During the past 5 years, HPP funds have focused on improving bed and personnel surge capacity, decontamination capabilities, isolation capacity, pharmaceutical supplies, training, education, drills and exercises.
- Current priority areas include: interoperable communication systems, bed tracking, personnel management, mass fatality management, and hospital evacuation planning.

Los Angeles County (LAC)

- Used HPP funds to develop the Disaster Resource Center (DRC) program to deliver coordinated and effective care to victims of terrorism and other public health emergencies by enhancing surge capacity through:
 - Forward deployment of ventilators, pharmaceuticals, medical/surgical supplies and large tent shelters
 - Enhanced hospital planning, training, and cooperation in a geographical area

LAC DRCs

- Serves population of over 11 million; over 4,000 square miles
- Represents 74 9-1-1 receiving hospitals
- County of Los Angeles designated 13 hospitals to serve as DRCs, which are geographically distributed.
- Each DRC is assigned 8-12 local “umbrella” hospitals, clinics, and prehospital agencies.
- DRCs expected to take the lead in planning, training, and communication with “umbrella” hospitals (monthly meetings).
- DRC program assists hospitals in meeting current Joint Commission requirements in Community Preparation and Emergency Management Standards.

DRC Stockpiles

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – powered air-purifying hoods, HEPA filter cartridges, chemically resistant suits, gloves, boots, etc.
- Fixed warm water decontamination capability (goal: decontaminate 50 patients/hour).
- Isolation resources (~900 beds in LAC)
- Ventilators

DRC Stockpiles

- Medical/Surgical supplies (1000 lbs of bandages, scalpels, surgical gloves, stethoscopes, etc.)
 - Includes radiation monitoring devices and dosimeters
- Pharmaceuticals
 - Antibiotic prophylaxis for staff potentially exposed to Anthrax/ other biological incidents
 - CHEMPACK – MARK1 antidotes for nerve agents
 - Strategic National Stockpile to be mobilized if it is a massive disaster
 - 8,000 doses of KI
- Surge Capacity equipment – tents, cots, tables, chairs, portable generators, etc.
 - Most recently purchased 100-bed mobile hospital

LAC DRC Program Principles

- DRC resources to be deployed to care for disaster victims when local healthcare system is overwhelmed (under direction of LAC EMS)
- EMS to coordinate and ensure delivery of DRC equipment and supplies to impacted area
- DRCs to be responsibility for maintaining pharmaceutical cache and medical/surgical cache in a constant state of readiness.

Activation and Mobilization of DRC Resources

- Requests for activation and mobilization of DRC resources are made to the County by contacting the EMS Agency's Medical Alert Center (acts as the Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) for LAC).
- EMS Agency coordinates mobilization of supplies and staff.

References

- ems@dhs.lacounty.gov
- <http://www.hhs.gov/aspr/opeco/hpp/>