

Hospital Preparedness for Toxicological Mass Casualties (TMC) in Peacetime

Nurit Fertel, RN; Bianca Lederman, MD

Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Tel Aviv, ISRAEL

Toxicological Mass Casualties (TMC) occur in war and in peacetime. During peacetime, it occurs either because of an accident or terrorist attack. A TMC is a complicated logistic event that requires extensive training and drills in the hospital and community.

Basic assumptions:

- 1) A TMC is an immediate event necessitating an immediate response. Delay can cause irreversible damage;
- 2) Decontamination and first aid must be provided by protected medical teams before admission to the emergency department (ER); and
- 3) The multi-disciplinary teams required must be available immediately.

Major principles:

- 1) Written standing orders for hospital and specific team management;
- 2) Preparation of infrastructure and equipment such as showers, protective clothing, and medical equipment stored near to the ER;
- 3) Clear delineation of lines between contaminated and decontaminated areas;
- 4) A large, multi-disciplinary work force with designated roles specific to the needs of this event; and
- 5) Early identification of the toxic source is essential. Appropriate medical treatment is given according to provided instruction booklets.

Summary: Planning and preparedness for all phases of the toxicological event are essential. Attention to minute details and frequent instruction drills are required in order to provide a speedy and optimal response.

Keywords: casualties; hospitals; mass casualties; preparedness; toxicological events

Hospital Deployment Plan for Mass Casualty Events (MCE)

Bianca Lederman, MD

Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Tel Aviv, ISRAEL

Maintaining the preparedness of the hospital for emergencies is an ongoing process that obliges continuous actions in order to assure constant readiness.

Basic Assumptions:

- 1) TASMIC is committed to administering optimal medical services to casualties during conventional, toxicological, and biological MCE;
- 2) The operation of the hospital during MCE is characterized by an expansion of the routine services and the establishment of directed services;
- 3) Maximizing capabilities in treating casualties necessitates an assurance of skills of each member in performing his roles.

Major Principles:

- 1) Operating an Emergency Committee with representatives from multi-disciplinary fields;
- 2) Preparation of standing orders for the hospital for all events;
- 3) Pre-designation of admission sites for conventional and non-conventional MCE;
- 4) Expansion of facilities;
- 5) Designation of hospital staff to the admission sites, creation of special roles;
- 6) Operation of ancillary and voluntary teams;
- 7) Maintaining training programs;
- 8) Logistic support;
- 9) Equipment;
- 10) Communication systems;
- 11) Decontamination facilities, etc.

Summary:

Maintaining a constant level of alert and readiness for MCE necessitates:

- 1) Personal obligation of an Emergency Committee;
- 2) Preemptive thought and planning;
- 3) Continuous, uninterrupted activity; and
- 4) Emphasis on planning and performance of minor details as well as major details.

Keywords: expansion; hospital; mass casualty event; planning; preparedness; standing orders; teams; training