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LESSON LEARNED

Strategic National Stockpile Dispensing: Planning for Populations with Special Needs at Point of Dispensing Sites

SUMMARY

Point of dispensing (POD) site staff should develop a plan that identifies specific requirements and procedures for processing individuals who use wheelchairs and individuals with mobility or dexterity limitations.

DESCRIPTION

The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is a program administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure the availability and rapid deployment of necessary pharmaceuticals and medical surgical supplies during a potential biological, chemical, or conventional terrorist attack; a natural disease outbreak; or another emergency.

On June 2-3 2003, Michigan state officials conducted an SNS full-scale exercise to assess the State's ability to receive and distribute the stockpile following a simulated intentional release of an aerosolized biological agent. The exercise scenario simulated an attack during a Michigan State University hockey game in East Lansing, Michigan. The number of casualties overwhelmed the area's medical system, depleting medical supplies and triggering an SNS request. The exercise's objectives were to test and improve the State's SNS procedures in response to a biological terrorist attack, to measure the interoperability of the procedures with state and local emergency operation plans, and to demonstrate the State's ability to receive, breakdown, distribute, and dispense SNS assets.

For additional information on PODs and Receipt, Store, and Stage (RSS) sites, please refer to the *Lessons Learned Information Sharing* Best Practice [Strategic National Stockpile Distribution Planning: Overview](#) and the Department of Health and Human Services guide [Community-Based Mass Prophylaxis: A Planning Guide for Public Health Preparedness](#)

State officials established a POD facility at the Clinton County Sheriff's Department. Site staff maintained a triage station in a mobile van outside of the POD facility. Several individuals in wheelchairs could not access the van during initial triage because it was not handicap accessible. Consequently, staff triaged individuals in wheelchairs outside of the van without access to shelter. In the exercise after-action report (AAR), staff members identified that this practice would pose a problem during severe weather conditions.

The exercise AAR recommended that POD site staff should develop a plan that identifies specific requirements and procedures for processing individuals in wheelchairs and individuals with mobility or dexterity limitations.

CITATION

Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. *Community-Based Mass Prophylaxis: A Planning Guide for Public Health Preparedness*. Aug 2004.

https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=17718

Lessons Learned Information Sharing Best Practice, "Strategic National Stockpile Distribution Planning: Overview." 15 Aug 2005.

https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=14191

State of Michigan. *MICH SNS03: Strategic National Stockpile Full-Scale Exercise June 2-3, 2003, After Action Report*.

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