

The Role of Health Systems in Disaster Recovery

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Medical Disaster Recovery

In the Context of Current
Medical - Economic Realities

The Reality of Medical Economics

Ambulances to Nowhere:

America's Critical Shortfall in Medical Preparedness for Catastrophic Terrorism

http://bcsia.ksg.harvard.edu/publication.cfm?program=CORE&ctype=paper&item_id=115

Hospital CEO Definition of “Weapons of Mass Destruction”

- Medicare
- Managed Care

The New York Times

New Orleans Recovery Is Slowed by Closed Hospitals



Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

The emergency room at Charity Hospital was by far the busiest in New Orleans before floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina forced the evacuation of hundreds of patients and staff members.

Almost two years later, the building ap

By [LESLIE EATON](#)

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“Of all the factors blocking the economic revival of New Orleans, the shattered health care system may be the most important — and perhaps the most intractable.”

Disaster Recovery...

***Do you need an organized, 'planned'
transition from response?***

Is recovery of healthcare systems important?

Is this a government responsibility?

Medicine: The “public-private divide” dilemma

- *Most medical services are individually provided by the “private sector”... BUT*
- *Collectively*, they are “public health”
- *And vital to community recovery...*

Community Recovery

- *Medical care systems are needed to keep people from leaving... or getting them to return...*

“I’ve been telling people, don’t bring your parents back if they are sick,” said Dr. David A. Myers, an internist who lived and worked in Mid-City [New Orleans] before the flood and has moved his home and practice to the suburbs. (*NY Times*)

Community Recovery

- *Medical care systems are needed to keep people from leaving...*
- *Healthcare is an important economic engine...*
- *Medical system recovery is therefore critical to the public interest*
- *Public Policy to address it ???*

Healthcare System Recovery

- *Needs adequate numbers of “paying patients” to make system recovery feasible and an attractive financial option...*
- *Increasing the charges for services is NOT an option...*

Healthcare System Recovery

- *Healthcare systems are expensive to build or rebuild*
- *Profit margins can be slim on a good day*
- *Collecting business interruption insurance & “moving on” can be an attractive option...*



Healthcare System Recovery

- *Medical personnel are in demand and have options elsewhere...*
- *How do you keep them around?*

Healthcare System Recovery

Public policy to address this?

- *What if it was an NFL or MLB team?*
- *Would policy allow public funding for a “stadium” equivalent?*
- *What about other policy issues?*

Healthcare System Recovery

Operational aspects of recovery...

- *What are the goals and objectives?*
- *How is recovery managed?*
- *Defining the “new normal” before it is defined for you...*

Healthcare System Recovery

Operational aspects of system recovery...

- *Pre-incident, everything operated at capacity...*
- *Delayed “electives” have become urgencies...*
- *Urgent procedures such as cardiac cath have become emergent...*
- *How do you address the backlogs?*

Healthcare System Recovery

Operational aspects of system recovery...

- *How do you address the large amount of uncompensated care provided during the emergency phase?*

Healthcare System Recovery

Operational aspects of recovery...

- *How do you address “Return to Readiness” of medical & mental health response assets...*



Public policy & strategic planning are critical...

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Thank you!

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