

# FATALITY MANAGEMENT: PANDEMIC DEATHS IN HOSPITALS

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# Safety Manager Role...

- Serve as emergency coordinator
  - ◆ Develop plans – facility and departments
  - ◆ Design and conduct drills
  - ◆ Facilitate employee education
  - ◆ Serve as liaison with the community
    - ◆ Other hospitals
    - ◆ Agencies
  - ◆ Coordinate compliance activities

# Hospital Emergency Management Activities

- Increasing emphasis for the last ten years by accrediting and regulatory agencies due to:
  - ◆ Natural disasters
  - ◆ Terrorist events
  - ◆ Industrial accidents
- Specifics for communication, supplies, command structure, etc.
- Lack of direction related to fatality management

# Our Plans and Processes

- Basic Emergency Management Plan
  - ◆ Hospital Incident Command System
    - ◆ Mass Casualty Incident Response Plan
      - Bioterrorism Response Plan
      - Plan for Influx of Infectious Patients
      - Pandemic Influenza Plan
- Coordinate with other Infection Control, Administrative, and Nursing policies
  - ◆ e.g., for coroner notification, care of body after death, etc.

# Management of Fatalities

## ■ Routine single death

- ◆ Infectious vs. not infectious
- ◆ Autopsy vs. no autopsy

## ■ Incident with mass fatalities

- ◆ Considerations for infectivity and autopsy
- ◆ Morgue storage capacity issues

## ■ Protracted event with continued fatalities

- ◆ Storage capacity
- ◆ Availability of body bags

# Management of Fatalities

- Currently trying to improve the plan
- Considering purchase of more body bags
- Looking at possibilities with refrigerated trucks
- Reviewing assessment tools
- Planning to use information from the conference in next revision

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the 1990s, the number of people with a mental health problem has increased in the UK. The prevalence of mental health problems in the UK is estimated to be 16.5% (Mental Health Foundation 2005). The prevalence of mental health problems in the UK is estimated to be 16.5% (Mental Health Foundation 2005).

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