

Emergency Preparedness and Response in Healthcare

Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) is a critical component of healthcare infrastructure management. It involves the development and implementation of plans and procedures to ensure the continuity of healthcare services during emergencies or disasters. The following are some key terms and vocabulary related to EPR:

1. **Emergency Management:** The process of preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies or disasters. It involves four phases: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
2. **Mitigation:** The process of reducing the likelihood or impact of emergencies or disasters. It includes activities such as retrofitting buildings to withstand earthquakes, implementing policies to reduce the risk of wildfires, and educating the public about emergency preparedness.
3. **Preparedness:** The process of developing and maintaining the capability to respond to emergencies or disasters. It includes activities such as developing emergency plans, conducting training and exercises, and maintaining emergency supplies.
4. **Response:** The process of taking action to address emergencies or disasters. It includes activities such as evacuating residents, providing medical care, and restoring critical infrastructure.
5. **Recovery:** The process of returning to normal or improved conditions after emergencies or disasters. It includes activities such as repairing damaged infrastructure, providing financial assistance, and addressing the long-term impacts of the event.
6. **All-Hazards Approach:** A comprehensive approach to emergency management that considers a wide range of potential hazards, including natural disasters, technological accidents, and human-caused events.
7. **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP):** A written document that outlines the actions to be taken in response to emergencies or disasters. It includes roles and responsibilities, communication plans, and resource management strategies.
8. **Emergency Operations Center (EOC):** A physical location where emergency management activities are coordinated during emergencies or disasters. It may be a dedicated facility or a temporary location set up during the event.
9. **Incident Command System (ICS):** A standardized management system used during emergencies or disasters. It includes a clear chain of command, standardized communication protocols, and a common terminology.
10. **Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP):** A plan that outlines how an organization will continue to function during and after emergencies or disasters. It includes strategies for maintaining critical operations, protecting essential records, and communicating with stakeholders.
11. **Mass Casualty Incident (MCI):** An event that results in a large number of injuries or fatalities, overwhelming the capacity of local healthcare resources.
12. **Hospital Incident Command System (HICS):** A standardized management system used by hospitals during emergencies or disasters. It includes a clear chain of command, standardized communication protocols, and a common terminology.
13. **National Incident Management System (NIMS):** A standardized management system used during

emergencies or disasters in the United States. It includes a common terminology, standardized communication protocols, and a standardized incident management structure.

14. Emergency Support Function (ESF): A group of organizations and resources dedicated to a specific aspect of emergency management, such as mass care or transportation.
15. Mutual Aid Agreement: An agreement between organizations or jurisdictions to provide assistance to each other during emergencies or disasters.
16. Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA): A process of identifying and assessing the potential hazards facing an organization or community, and prioritizing actions to reduce their impact.
17. National Response Framework (NRF): A guide for emergency responders and planners in the United States, outlining the roles and responsibilities of different levels of government and organizations during emergencies or disasters.
18. Shelter-in-Place: A protective action taken during emergencies or disasters, where individuals are instructed to remain indoors and seal off windows and doors to prevent the entry of hazardous substances.
19. Evacuation: A protective action taken during emergencies or disasters, where individuals are instructed to leave a dangerous area and move to a safer location.
20. Family Emergency Plan: A plan that outlines how family members will communicate and reunite during emergencies or disasters.
21. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Equipment worn to protect individuals from hazards, such as masks, gloves, and gowns.
22. Decontamination: The process of removing hazardous substances from individuals, equipment, or facilities.
23. Surge Capacity: The ability of healthcare facilities to handle a sudden increase in patient volume during emergencies or disasters.
24. Alternate Care Site (ACS): A temporary healthcare facility established during emergencies or disasters to provide care for patients who cannot be accommodated in traditional healthcare facilities.
25. Medical Surge: A sudden increase in the demand for healthcare services during emergencies or disasters.
26. Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT): A team of healthcare professionals who provide medical care during emergencies or disasters.
27. National Disaster Medical System (NDMS): A federal program that provides medical care during emergencies or disasters.
28. Emergency Medical Services (EMS): A system of emergency medical care, including ambulance services and emergency medical technicians.
29. Disaster Recovery Center (DRC): A physical location where individuals affected by emergencies or disasters can access resources and assistance.
30. Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR): A program that supports the development and implementation of emergency preparedness and response plans for public health emergencies.
31. Healthcare Coalition: A collaborative network of healthcare organizations and stakeholders that work together to improve emergency preparedness and response.
32. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC): A group of healthcare professionals who volunteer their time and skills during emergencies or disasters.

33. Radiological Dispersion Device (RDD): A device that disperses radioactive material, also known as a "dirty bomb".
34. Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Incident: An emergency or disaster involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive materials.
35. National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS): A system for alerting the public to potential terrorist threats in the United States.
36. Active Shooter Incident: An emergency or disaster involving an individual or group of individuals who are actively shooting at people in a confined space.
37. Hospital Visitor Restriction Policy: A policy that restricts visitors to hospitals during emergencies or disasters to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
38. Point of Dispensing (POD): A location where medical countermeasures, such as vaccines or medications, are distributed during public health emergencies.
39. Social Distancing: A public health measure taken during infectious disease outbreaks to prevent the spread of the disease, such as keeping a safe distance from others.
40. Personal Respiratory Protection (PRP): A device worn to protect individuals from airborne hazards, such as masks or respirators.
41. Infectious Disease: A disease caused by the transmission of a pathogen from one individual to another.
42. Quarantine: A public health measure taken during infectious disease outbreaks to prevent the spread of the disease, where individuals who have been exposed to the pathogen are isolated from the general public.
43. Isolation: A public health measure taken during infectious disease outbreaks to prevent the spread of the disease, where individuals who have been infected with the pathogen are isolated from the general public.
44. Disease Surveillance: The ongoing collection, analysis, and interpretation of data related to the occurrence of diseases in a population.
45. Vulnerable Populations: Populations that are at higher risk of negative outcomes during emergencies or disasters, such as the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and low-income communities.
46. Mass Prophylaxis: The distribution of medical countermeasures, such as vaccines or medications, to large populations during public health emergencies.
47. Mass Care: The provision of shelter, food, water, and other essential services to large populations during emergencies or disasters.
48. Community Resilience: The ability of a community to withstand and recover from emergencies or disasters, including the capacity to adapt to changing conditions and maintain essential functions.
49. National Preparedness Goal: A goal established by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to enhance the nation's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from emergencies or disasters.
50. Volunteer Reception Center (VRC): A location where volunteers can sign up and be assigned tasks during emergencies or disasters.

EPR is a critical component of healthcare infrastructure management, and requires a comprehensive understanding of the key terms