

NHSC 2020 **PROPOSED** Abstracts

Title	Lessons Learned from a 28 Hospitals and City Agencies: Pediatric Disaster Exercise
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Sessions Type	Oral Presentation
	<p>Children are frequently victims of disasters. However, gaps remain in pediatric disaster preparedness. The New York City Pediatric Disaster Coalition’s (NYCPDC) goal is to prepare NYC for pediatric mass casualty events. The NYCPDC conducted a functional exercise testing surge, communications, and transport. Participants included 28 pediatric hospitals, the Fire Department-Emergency Medical Services (FDNY-EMS), NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM), NYC DOHMH and the NYC Medical Reserve Corps.</p> <p>The hospitals and agencies participated in group and individual planning meetings. Scenario-driven, operations-based activities tested facility's existing pediatric surge and secondary transport plans during an event. The Exercise assessed: Communications, Emergency Operation Plans, Surge, Patient Tracking, Patient Transfer, Supplies and Staffing.</p> <p>An After- Action Report was written based on information from evaluations, hot-washes, and an after-action conference. Strengths included meaningful improvement of plans before/after the exercise and doubling pediatric critical care capacity through</p>

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implementation of the exercise objectives. Challenges included: gaps in communication/patient tracking, lack of sufficient sub-specialty support, the need for "baby-sitters" and inadequate supplies of blood products and ventilators.

In conclusion conducting a multi-hospital and agency pediatric specific exercise demonstrated current planning efforts and produced lessons learned to address identified gaps that can improve citywide capabilities during future exercise and real-time events.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe the importance of citywide planning and coordinated exercises focused on the special needs of children and their families.
2. Discuss the exercise planning, conduct and evaluation process for a 28 hospital/City Agencies coordinated functional exercise of the NYC Pediatric Disaster Plan.
3. Utilize the lessons learned to improve participants planning, exercise and review process at their home institutions and agencies.