

Public Health Preparedness Summit 2020 PROPOSED Abstracts

Title	Lessons Learned from an OB/ Newborn/Neonatal Intensive Care Full-Scale Exercise
Author(s) and if different, institution	<p>Michael Frogel, MD - NYC Pediatric Disaster Coalition</p> <p>George Foltin, MD- NYC Pediatric Disaster Coalition</p> <p>John Jermyn, MS - NYC Pediatric Disaster Coalition</p> <p>Wanda Medina - NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene</p>
Format	90-minute Learning Session
Abstract	<p>Abstract content:</p> <p>Children are frequently victims of disasters. However, gaps remain in disaster planning for pediatric patients. The New York City Pediatric Disaster Coalition (NYC PDC) is funded by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to prepare NYC for mass casualty incidents that involve large numbers of pediatric victims. The PDC is comprised of experts in emergency preparedness, pediatric critical care, surgery, and emergency medicine, as well as representatives from local emergency management, first responder, and public health agencies. On April 26, 2018, the NYC PDC conducted a first in NYC full-scale exercise with the New York Fire Department (FDNY) testing evacuation, patient tracking, communications, and emergency response of the Obstetrics, Newborn and Neonatal units at a NYC Hospital. The goal of the exercise was to evaluate current Ob/Newborn/Neonatal plans and assess the hospital’s ability to evacuate patients during an emergency situation. The exercise also provided an opportunity to identify best practices and common issues for NYC PDC to assist other hospitals with Ob/Newborn/Neonatal disaster planning.</p>

The exercise planning process included a review of existing hospital Ob/Newborn/Neonatal plans, four interdisciplinary planning meetings, and additional targeted area meetings and plan revisions. The exercise incorporated scenario-driven, operations-based activities, which challenged participants to employ the facility's existing evacuation plans during an emergency.

The Exercise assessed the following: Communication, Emergency Operation Plans, Evacuation, Patient Tracking, Supplies and Staffing. Evaluators completed an exercise evaluation guide based on the Master Scenario Event List.

An After-Action Report was written based on the information from the exercise evaluation guides, participant feedback forms, hot-wash session, and after-action review meeting. Strengths included the meaningful improvement of hospital and fire department plans before the exercise, and the overall meeting of exercise objectives. Lessons learned included: addressing gaps in effective internal and external communications; identifying adequate supplies of space, staff, equipment needed for vertical evacuations; and providing staging and alternate care sites with sufficient patient care and electrical-power resources. The lessons learned are being utilized to improve existing hospital plans to prepare for future full-scale exercise and or real-time events, as well as to enhance NYC PDC's Ob/Newborn/Neonatal planning.

Draft Learning Objectives: (please list three)

1. Describe the need for exercises focused on OB/Newborn/Neonatal evacuation.
2. Discuss the planning, conduct and evaluation process for a full-scale evacuation exercise.
3. Utilize the lessons learned to conduct an FSE at their home institutions.