

**IPRED 2020 PROPOSED Abstracts**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Lessons Learned from 28 Hospitals and City Agencies: Pediatric Disaster Exercise</b>
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<b>Sessions Type</b>	Oral Presentation
<b>Abstract</b>	<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>Children are frequently victims of disasters. However, gaps remain in pediatric disaster preparedness. The New York City Pediatric Disaster Coalition (NYCPDC) is funded by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to prepare NYC for mass casualty events that involve large numbers of children. The NYC PDC conducted a functional exercise testing surge, communications, and secondary transport. Participants included 28 NYC hospitals, the NYC Fire Department-Emergency Medical Services (FDNY-EMS), NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM), NYC DOHMH and the NYC Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).</p> <p><b>Study Question:</b></p> <p>Will conducting a citywide pediatric disaster exercise, evaluation and after-action activities yield useful information on surge planning to assess current preparedness and to develop lessons learned?</p>
	<b>Method:</b>

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	<p>The hospitals and agencies participated in group and individual planning meetings. Scenario-driven, operations-based activities challenged participants to employ their facility's existing pediatric surge and secondary transport plans during an event.</p> <p>The Exercise assessed: Communications, Emergency Operation Plans, Surge, Patient Tracking, Patient Transfer, Supplies and Staffing. Internal and external evaluators assessed the exercise performance.</p>
	<p><b>Results:</b></p> <p>An After- Action Report was written based on information from evaluation data, site specific and group hot-washes, and an after-action conference. Strengths included meaningful improvement of plans before/after the exercise and doubling pediatric critical care capacity through 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.</p>
	<p><b>Conclusion &amp; Health Policy Implications:</b></p> <p>Conducting a multi-hospital and agency pediatric specific exercise demonstrated current planning and produced lessons learned to address planning and training gaps that can improve citywide planning and capabilities during future full-scale exercise and real-time events.</p>