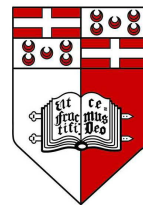


# PHARMACY SERVICES IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

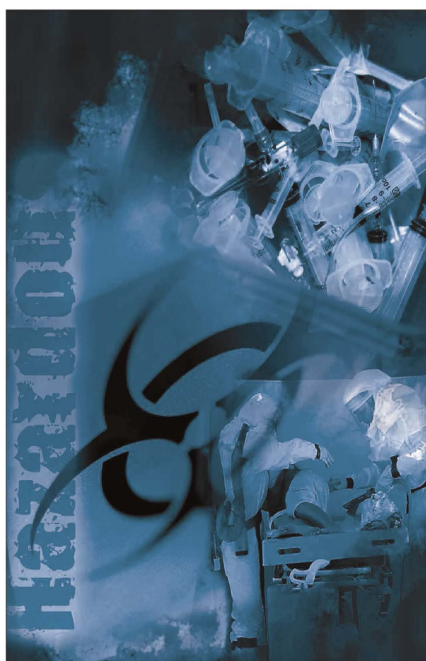
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## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES:

Disasters are fundamentally human made, a function of where and how people choose or are forced to live. The trigger may be a natural phenomenon, but its impact is governed by the prior vulnerability of the affected community.<sup>1</sup> Emergency management involves four phases: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

The project aimed at enhancing the local emergency management through the input of the hospital pharmacist by developing and validating pharmacy services, in the form of procedural flowcharts and checklists. These algorithms were designed to meet the identified pharmaceutical needs in a group of defined emergencies.



## METHOD:

Since the research focused on an area which is still evolving, qualitative research was adopted, using focus groups to formulate the study key issues.

A research and an expert group were convened basing selection on their experience and background in the field. The expert group identified the emergency themes that were discussed in the study in collaboration with the research group.

The expert group were asked to revise and validate the scenario analysis – pharmacy response checklists developed for the emergency themes. The flowcharts were developed to present protocols for the use of pharmaceuticals in the emergency themes.

## RESULTS:

The four emergency themes that were discussed were civil unrest, natural disasters, man-made disasters and the pandemic. The Emergency Management Checklists for pharmacists that were prepared, included the mitigation, preparedness, response and the recovery checklists.

Bearing the hospital's onsite pharmaceuticals in mind, thirteen flowcharts were compiled. These include; cardiac arrest, bradycardia, anaphylaxis, acute severe asthma, endotracheal intubation, opioid overdose, pain relief, status epilepticus, hypoglycaemia, minor injuries, burns, nerve agents and cyanide intoxication.

## CONCLUSION:

The study contributed both a framework and a process for the local scenario to the understanding of how to assess existing processes in this field and at the same time developed methodologies through international comparative analysis to ultimately improve existing plans and launch new alternatives.

Pharmacist interventions in emergency preparedness and response activities, indicates, that the profession is embracing roles outside traditional pharmacy practice.

## REFERENCE:

1. Redmond A.D. ABC of conflict and disaster: Natural disasters. *BMJ* 2005; 330:1259-1261.