

DHH Pandemic Flu Clinical Forum has engaged hospitals, providers, ethicists, religious leaders, attorneys, and the public to develop a medical crisis standards of care plan that addresses an extreme scenario – similar to the Contagion movie – wherein the severity of morbidity and mortality far exceeds the collective resources of healthcare available throughout the state or nation. DHH will be distributing announcements about the CSOC documents to the general public as recommended by the Institutes of Medicine (IOM). Providers may want to review the medical CSOC document and the General Public CSOC version as you may be asked questions from your patients. The documents can be found at www.louisianaep.com.

CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE SUMMARY

Louisiana *Crisis Standards of Care* currently includes four basic components. Each component represents a specific care contact point between patients and medical professionals. The following is a summary description of the purpose of each component.

EMS Triage System

The health care partners that provide EMS services to the public will be conducting patient assessments prior to bringing patients to a hospital. Those less critical individuals will not be taken to the hospital so that the hospital can focus on the more seriously ill and injured patients. Some patients may be treated at home and some patients may be taken to alternate care facilities.

Pre-Hospital Triage Model

The hospital emergency department staff will conduct patient health assessments upon arrival at the hospital. During an extreme crisis (such as a pandemic influenza event) the staff will identify those individuals who:

- 1) Will survive without hospital treatment;
- 2) Have the highest chance to survive with hospital treatment;
- 3) Have a moderate chance to survive with hospital treatment; and
- 4) Have almost no chance to survive even with hospital treatment.

ICU Triage Model

Once a patient has been admitted to the hospital and it has been determined that he/she needs a level of care provided in the intensive care unit (ICU), a daily assessment of the patient will be completed to determine how well the patient is responding to treatment. Treatment procedures may change based on the patient's health status.

Pediatric Triage Model

During an extreme crisis situation all medical resources will be severely limited. This includes medications, equipment, and intensive care beds used for the benefit of pediatric patients. All pediatric patients will be admitted and assessed in a method similar to adult patients. Every effort will be made to manage as many pediatric patients as possible.