



Weapons of Mass Destruction

Self-Study Guide

Upon completion of this self-study guide, you should be able to understand that Weapons of Mass Destruction are Bio-Terrorism threats, the types of Bio-Terrorism threats which concern the Hospital, and your role in the Bio-Terrorism Readiness Plan.

Successful completion of this program can be accomplished by completing the examination on the last page of this self-study guide with a score of 80% or better.

INTRODUCTION

Weapons of Mass Destruction can come in many forms. When we think of WMDs, we think of Nuclear Weapons or mushroom clouds. These are real threats; however, these are not among the Hospital's biggest threats.

What are our biggest threats?

The threats that should concern us the most when we think about WMDs are real or suspected biological terrorism attacks.

The most common biological threats are:

Anthrax
Botulism
Plague
Smallpox

Details on these biological threats, and what to do if a real or suspected biological threat happens, can be found in the **Bio-Terrorism Readiness Plan** found in the hospital Safety Manual.

Initiation of the Bio-Terrorism Readiness Plan

The need to initiate the plan could come from notification of Emergency Management Personnel or from the number and type of cases presented in the Emergency Department.

The Hospital Administrator, or their designee, or the Emergency Department Physician, or their designee, can authorize the initiation of the Bio-Terrorism Readiness Plan (also called Code Zebra).

On-duty staff would be notified by the overhead paging system. The announcement would be Code Yellow (Disaster) or Code Zebra (Bio-Terrorism Alert). With either announcement, staff actions would be the same. Your response would be that of an external disaster.

Are we ready for a Bio-Terrorism event?

The Emergency Preparedness Sub-Committee works with hospital staff, emergency response teams, our hospital partners, and community partners to prepare for disasters. We have medications and supplies specifically related to Bio-Terrorism events. We conduct both internal and external drills to help be prepared.

What can you do?

- Review the Bio-Terrorism Readiness Plan.
- Review the Hospital Disaster Plan.
- Know your specific duties during a disaster.
- Participate in the drills.