Angels of Mercy

Compassionate Patient Care in an Austere Environment

Richard Beebe MS RN NRP

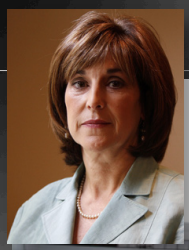
Voices from Chernobyl

- He was producing stool 25 - 30 times a day. With blood and mucous. His skin started cracking on his arms and legs. He became covered in boils. When he turned his head, there's be a clump of hair left on the pillow. I tried joking: "It's convenient, you don't need a comb."

Svetlana Alexievich, page 15.

TABLE	UNITED STATES	VIRGINIA
CLINICALLY ILL	89 MILLION	>1.9 MILLION
OUTPATIENT CARE	42 MILLION	>1 MILLION
HOSPITALIZED	700,000	~25,000
MORTALITY	200,000	~10,000

Epilogue



Austere Care

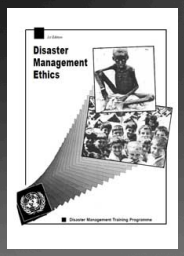
- Overarching Goal of MCE Management
  - Maximize the number of lives saved

- "When the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the one, what happens to the one?"

Sally Phillips, R.N., Ph.D.,

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Disaster Ethics



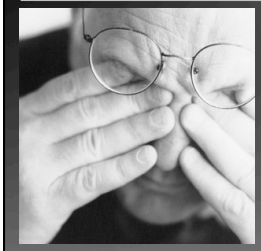
Ethical Principles

- Fairness
- Respect for Person
- Solidarity
- Limiting Harm

Ethical Principles

- Ethical process requires
  - Reasonableness
  - Transparency

Transformation of Medicine



What is Palliative Care?

- An approach which improves the quality of life of patients and family facing life - threatening illness, through prevention, assessment, and treatment of pain and other physical, psychosocial and spiritual problems.

World Health Organization

Hospice - the Concept

Place of Death	All Americans	Those in Hospice
HOME	25%	50%
HOSPITAL	50%	9%
LTC FACILITY	25%	23%
HOSPICE FACILITY	0%	14%
RESIDENTIAL CARE	<1%	4%

What is Palliative Care at MCE?

AHRQ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
US Dept of Health & Human Services

Mercy Killing or Murder

- "But if the killing was intentional, even if it was meant to be merciful, it is something that society draws a 'bright line' against for fear that it will get out of hand."

R. Alta Charo JD
Professor of Law and bioethics, University of Wisconsin

Catastrophic Mass Casualty Palliative Care

- Palliative Care is:
  - Organized, Highly Structured Healthcare Delivery System
  - Goal is Enhancing Quality of Life to Extent Possible
- Palliative Care is **not**:
  - Abandonment
  - The same as hospice
  - Euthanasia
  - Hastening death

Vulnerable Populations

Acute Casualties
- Expectant
- Exposure

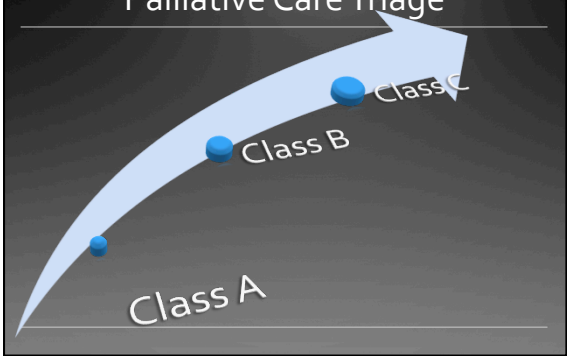
Medically Fragile
- Elderly
- Sick at Home
- Disabled

Terminally Ill
- Hospice
- Nursing Home

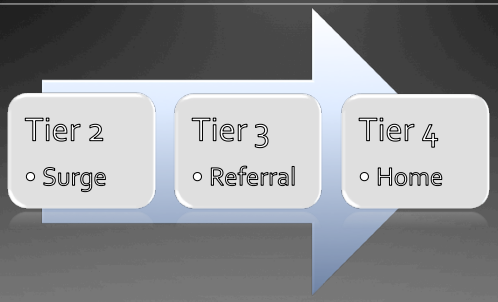
Therapeutic Goals

- Provide Comfort
- Support Longevity of Life
- Permit Meaningful Relationships

Palliative Care Triage



Disaster



Surge Capacity & Black Beds

- Many hospitals are already operating at or over capacity. Because major hospitals and emergency departments are already crowded with patients and even may be boarding large numbers of inpatients, there is little or no surge capacity to absorb a large influx of patients from an MCE.—*Hospital-Based Emergency Care: At the Breaking Point.Institute of Medicine, June 2006.*

Alternative Care Sites

But Wait There is More

What Needs to Be Done?

SNS

Training

- Medical Reserve Corps
  - Retired Healthcare Professionals
    - AARP
  - Volunteers
    - Faith based Organizations
- Just in Time Training

medical reserve corps

Don't Forget the Rescuers

"Bring Out Your Dead"

NDMS • USA DMORT DISASTER MORTUARY OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

Suffer the Children

What should be done now?

"The needs of those who may not survive catastrophic mass casualty events and the 'existing' vulnerable populations affected by the event should be incorporated into the planning, preparation, response, and recovery management systems of all regions and jurisdictions."

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, 2004.

- **End Goal of MCE Management**
  - Save As Many As You Can*
    - Maximize Medically Effective Therapy
      - Priority Access to Scarce Resources
  - Palliative Care for All