Healthcare Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

ASPR TRACIE Speaker Series

March 2021

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) presents a speaker series focused on how the COVID-19 pandemic brought healthcare and public health, emergency medical services, and emergency management together to adjust healthcare operations. Topics in this series include the role of pharmacists in the pandemic, adjusting operations to manage patient surge, creating a COVID-19 task force, and meeting supply chain challenges.

Welcome and Introduction to the Speaker Series

This short introduction features Dr. John Hick, Hennepin Healthcare, highlighting how the many fields and specialties affected by the COVID-19 pandemic came together to meet challenges associated with critical care, crisis standards of care, pharmacy, supply chain, and patient surge.

Community Pharmacists’ Role in COVID-19

Dr. Alfred L’Altrelli, PharmD, Administrative Director of Pharmacy, UPMC Presbyterian discusses how the role of pharmacists in has evolved in general—beyond product dispensing to patient-centered care—and how this has manifested during the pandemic.

Lessons Learned from a COVID-19-Designated Hospital

Dr. Bonnie Arquilla, Dr. Pia Daniel, and Patricia Roblin, Emergency Preparedness Leadership Team from SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, and University Hospital of Brooklyn share the operational adjustment made when the University Hospital of Brooklyn (the primary teaching hospital for the State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University) became the only COVID-19 designated hospital in Brooklyn.

Incorporating Emergency Preparedness into the COVID-19 Response

Eric Alberts, CEM, CHEP, CHPP, Corporate Director, Emergency Preparedness, Orlando Health, Inc. explains lessons learned by Orlando Health during the pandemic, including the role of safety officers, internal communications, adding negative air flow rooms, and redeploying staff.

Essential Information for Use of Point-of-Care Tests for COVID-19 Diagnosis

Jill Taylor, Ph.D., Senior Advisor for Scientific Affairs, Association of Public Health Laboratories shares essential information regarding the use of point-of-care tests (including molecular and antigen) for COVID-19 diagnosis in this short video.
**COVID-19 and the Law**

James G. Hodge Jr., JD, LLM, Peter Kiewit Foundation Professor of Law; Director, Center for Public Health Law and Policy; Director, Western Region Office - Network for Public Health Law, and Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law highlights legal information specific to COVID-19 and emergency declarations, emergency powers and limitations, crisis standards of care, and liability protections.

**Using Electronic Health Records to Track Patients at an Alternate Care Site**

Diane Constantine, MSN, RN-BC, Director of Clinical Informatics, University of Maryland Medical System and Tiffany Kuebler, PA-C, MMS, Co-Medical Director of Clinical Informatics, University of Maryland Medical Center discuss how multiple stakeholders collaborated to create a surge facility at the Baltimore (MD) Convention Center.

**Methods for Monoclonal Antibody (mAb) Therapy**

Dr. William Fales, MD, FACEP, FAEMS, Medical Director, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Division of EMS and Trauma and Professor and Chief, Division of EMS and Disaster Medicine, Western Michigan University describes the statewide approach and support of monoclonal antibody therapy in various healthcare settings.

**Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Environmental Health and Safety for COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Hotels**

Janet Wang, MPA (in progress), Director of Regulatory Affairs; Priya Dhat, MS, MLS(ASCP), CIC, Associate Director, System-wide Special Pathogens Program; and Syra Madad, D.H.Sc, MCP, Senior Director, System-wide Special Pathogens Program (all from NYC Health + Hospitals; Dr. Madad is also a Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School at Harvard University) highlight how they prepared for, selected, and maintained operations and safety at a hotel set aside to treat clients in COVID-19 quarantine and isolation.

**The Role of the Physical Therapist in Pandemic Response**

Lindsay Harmon-Matthews, PT, DPT, MPH, J.J. Kuczynski, PT, DPT, OCS, Anthony Ganim, PT, MPT, MBA, and Michael Martin, PT, MPT (The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and other affiliations) discuss providing physical therapy to COVID-19 patients during and after hospitalization.

**Special Projects for Equitable and Efficient Distribution of COVID-19 Outpatient Therapeutics (SPEED)**

LCDR Tiffany Pfundt, PharmD, PMP (ASPR) provides a summary of COVID-19 therapeutics and an overview of HHS ASPR’s SPEED program, including its use in various types of settings.
Denver Health Virtual Hospital at Home

Patrick Ryan, MD, MPH, Rebecca Hanratty, MD, and Connie Price, MD (Denver Health and University of Colorado School of Medicine) discuss the goals, workflows, outcomes, and lessons learned from implementing a novel “Virtual Hospital at Home” model to treat COVID-19 patients.

Creating a COVID-19 Specialty Hospital

Erica Kuhlmann, DO, COVID ICU Medical Director, M Health Fairview (MN) shares how her facility made history when it became one of the nation’s first, and only, hospitals dedicated solely to treating people with severe, confirmed cases of COVID-19.

For more information:

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