

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Requestor: [REDACTED]
Requestor Phone:
Requestor Email:
Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 17 May 2018
Response Date: 25 May 2018
Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

[REDACTED] requested technical assistance in searching for hospital exercise materials that address both a surge of patients exposed to a bioterrorism agent and being a closed point of dispensing (POD) for medical countermeasures (MCM) distribution.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team reviewed existing ASPR TRACIE Topic Collections; namely the [Exercise Program](#), [Hospital Surge Capacity and Immediate Bed Availability](#), and [Mass Distribution and Dispensing of Medical Countermeasures](#) Topic Collections. We also conducted a literature review for additional resources. In addition, we reached out to ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre members to gather examples of written materials or anecdotal information that they could share with the requestor.

Section I below includes feedback provided by ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre members. Section II provides exercise resources related to open PODs and bioterrorism incidents; however, they are not specific to hospitals. Finally, section III includes other materials specific to closed PODs that may be helpful for this request.

I. ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre Member Comments

Note: These are direct quotes or paraphrased from emails and other correspondence provided by ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre members in response to this specific request. They do not necessarily express the views of ASPR or ASPR TRACIE.

SME Cadre Member 1:

- We have nothing specific to the requirements, but bioterrorism was my specialty at my previous organization, and I would be happy to make myself available for a call with the requestor.
- Contact the [ASPR TRACIE Assistance Center](#) if you would like to speak directly with this SME.

SME Cadre Member 2:

- Hospitals could use a flu season scenario as a good model that would test the same capabilities.

SME Cadre Member 3:

- In ██████████ County, there is a specific unit that handles the support from Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) preparations related to both hospital surge and, on a limited level, for a hospital's access to the antibiotics that are needed to act as a Closed POD.
- Through their pre-staged antibiotics program, EMS' support of the hospital's Closed POD activities is limited to only the supply of their initial cache of pre-staged antibiotics, which is sufficient to allow these hospitals to meet the immediate Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) needs of their staff, including at least some of the PEP required for the staff's families.

SME Cadre Member 4:

- For hospital surge exercise materials, I would recommend engaging the ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) points of contact.
- Legal issues are often foremost in the minds of Closed POD partners.
 - **Note from ASPR TRACIE:** For legal resources, visit the Mass Distribution and Dispensing of Medical Countermeasures Topic Collection, specifically the [Legal and Regulatory Resources](#) section.
- Contact the [ASPR TRACIE Assistance Center](#) if you would like to speak directly with this SME or need to be connected to ASPR HPP staff.

II. Exercise Resources

Los Angeles Department of Public Health. (2015). [2015 Anthrax Tabletop Exercise Situation Manual](#).

The Los Angeles Department of Public Health developed a situation manual and accompanying PowerPoint presentation for use by cities as part of the November 2015 annual statewide exercise. It provides an overview of all aspects of the anthrax incident response related to MCM deployment. **NOTE:** Click on the section that states, "To download only City Partner Self TTX files, click: [HERE](#)."

San Francisco Department of Public Health, Charles Schwab & Co., Inc., and San Francisco Department of Emergency Management. (2007). [2007 Mass Antibiotic Dispensing Exercise \(MADE07\) After Action Report](#).

This after action report describes a full-scale exercise, which was developed to test the capability of San Francisco Department of Public Health's (SFDPH) plan for rapid mass prophylaxis dispensing in a mass outdoor aerosolized anthrax release scenario. Pediatric issues (e.g., medication dispensing) are addressed throughout the AAR.

III. Other Related Hospital/Closed POD Resources

Alabama Department of Public Health. (2013). [Becoming a Closed POD](#).

While written for the State of Alabama, the guidance in this document can help emergency healthcare planners across the U.S. understand the benefits of developing

closed points of dispensing (POD). The document provides an overview of open and closed PODs and lists answers to frequently asked questions.

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the National Association of County and City Health Officials. (2017). [Extended Medical Countermeasure Distribution and Dispensing Considerations for Anthrax Incidents](#).

In the event of a public health emergency involving anthrax, state and local jurisdictions will activate their medical countermeasure (MCM) plans, allowing for an initial 10-day antibiotic distribution. This document can help healthcare authorities plan for the extended post-exposure prophylactic period (in this case, 50-day antibiotic supply, three shot vaccine series, and treatment supplies) and includes promising practices in each domain and links to relevant resources.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). [Closed Point of Dispensing Considerations: An SNS \(Strategic National Stockpile\) Perspective](#).

This course provides state and local agencies with information to manage closed point of dispensing (POD) sites during a public health emergency.

Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy. (2018). [Guide Provides Resources and Training for Planning Closed Dispensing Sites](#). City of Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support.

This resource contains several downloadable documents related to closed PODs, including a training checklist, plan template, field operations guide, and other attachments.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment. (2013). [Hospital Closed Point-of-Dispensing \(POD\) Plan Template for Medical Countermeasures](#).

This plan template may be used by hospitals to develop closed Point of Dispensing (POD) plans to distribute oral antibiotics after an aerosolized anthrax release. **Note:** Other Standard Operating Guides from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment can be found here: http://www.kdheks.gov/cphp/operating_guides.htm.

Mecklenburg County (NC) Public Health Department. (n.d.). [Closed Point of Dispensing \(POD\) Toolkit](#). (Accessed 5/24/2018.)

This toolkit provides information on how to become a closed POD. It includes materials such as a closed POD dispensing plan template, sample POD checklists, sample Incident Command System structure and job action sheets, and supply list for closed PODs,

Oakland County (MI) Health Division. (n.d.). [Emergency Preparedness. Closed POD Planning for Businesses and Organizations](#). (Accessed 5/24/2018.)

This webpage contains a closed POD toolkit that can be used by healthcare partners. It also provides a Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) closed POD plan template, quick

“how-to guide, FAQ sheet, and other attachments. **Note:** Materials can be found in the dropdown selection at the bottom of the webpage titled, “Closed POD Planning for Businesses and Organizations.”

The Network for Public Health Law. (n.d.). [Issue Brief: Legal Issues Relevant To Private Entities Serving As Closed Points of Dispensing \(Closed PODs\) In Emergencies.](#) (Accessed 5/24/2018.)

This Issue Brief addresses many issues private entities should consider when planning to become a closed POD.

University of Minnesota. (2017). [PUBH X309 - Online: Closed POD \(Point of Dispensing\) Partnership Training.](#)

This online, self-paced training can help healthcare providers and coalitions learn more about and prepare to stand up a closed point of dispensing.