

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 27 March 2019

Response Date: 5 April 2019

Type of TA Request: Complex

Request:

The requestor asked if ASPR TRACIE knew of any hospitals that plan to use barcodes for registering patients during mass casualty incidents (MCIs).

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team reviewed existing ASPR TRACIE resources; namely the [Electronic Health Records](#), [On-Scene Mass Casualty Triage and Trauma Care](#), [Patient Movement and Tracking](#) Topic Collections. We also searched online for additional relevant materials.

We also reached out to ASPR TRACIE Subject Matter Expert (SME) Cadre members and requested specific resources (e.g., policies and procedures), feedback, and/or lessons learned.

Section I includes feedback provided by ASPR TRACIE SMEs via email. Section II includes resources that they shared. Finally, Section III provides links to other resources relevant to MCI patient registration information.

The ASPR TRACIE Team would also like to provide the requestor with the following technical assistance (TA) response, which may also be useful to this request.

[Paper-Based Hospital Records](#). This ASPR TRACIE TA response provides resources and comments from ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre members related to managing hospital records on paper when electronic health records (EHR) cannot be used.

I. ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre Member Comments

Please note: These are direct quotes or paraphrased comments 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:

- Many hospitals in our healthcare coalition enable a quick registration process with ready-to-go assembled packets including pre-identified account numbers. This can be quickly applied as barcoded identification usually with stickers applied to a patient bracelet so it can be scanned and added to basic paperwork.
- Arriving casualties will receive this type of ID outside and the process for registration is to focus on the “red” (most emergent) patients first, then the “yellows,” followed by the “greens” as there may be a limited number of registrars available, especially at night or on weekends until more staff arrives to assist.

- The process occurs outdoors not only for initial triage or reassessments for EMS patients, but also because wireless scanning and any computer access is limited outdoors other than for specific patient tracking devices.
- Our healthcare coalition is exploring a uniform process for patient tracking, including use of radio-frequency identification “RFID” bracelets applied by EMS or hospital personnel. However, when a person’s full identity is known and included as part of the Master Patient Index, then the barcoded bracelet process continues as part of their treatment.
- It would be wonderful if all EMS and hospitals had a consistent universal process for patient tracking. My understanding is that a military/FEMA model might be able to be applied also for hospitals to support MCIs and also patient evacuation/movement.

SME Cadre Member 2:

- Our hospital does not scan patient registration information into the EHR during a MCI. However, we are moving towards scanning patient information into our state patient tracking system that is used on a daily basis (and during an MCI).

II. Resources Provided by ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre Members

Orlando Health. (n.d.). Hospital: MCI ED Document - ADULT. (Document Attached.)

This mass causality incident flow sheet can be used to log patient information when adult victims are received in the hospital emergency room. The back sheet to this form is also attached and is titled, “back sheet MCI doc both adult and peds.” **NOTE: Do not further distribute this document.** Please contact ASPR TRACIE for permission to disseminate to others.

Orlando Health. (n.d.). Hospital: MCI ED Document - PEDS. (Document Attached.)

This mass causality incident flow sheet can be used to log patient information when pediatric victims are received in the hospital emergency room. The back sheet to this form is also attached and is titled, “back sheet MCI doc both adult and peds.” **NOTE: Do not further distribute this document.** Please contact ASPR TRACIE for permission to disseminate to others.

III. Other MCI Patient Information-Related Resources

Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and Elsevier. (2015). [Managing Patient Information during a Mass Casualty Incident.](#)

This presentation was provided at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) 5th Annual Conference and Exhibition in April 2015. It identifies lessons learned from mass casualty incidents (e.g., the Boston Marathon bombing), and addresses the challenges of managing unidentified patient names and records.

MCG Health, Inc. (2011). [Procedure for Trauma Registration](#).

This document outlines the procedures for registering trauma patients that present to the MCG Health, Inc. Emergency Department for treatment. Specifically, pages 4-5 address the policies for registering unidentified trauma patients.