

How to Improve Care Coordination During Natural Disasters

An Emergency Preparedness Infographic



Natural disasters have increased in frequency and severity, highlighting critical gaps in local, state, and federal capacity to deliver coordinated healthcare when routine infrastructure is compromised and populations are displaced.

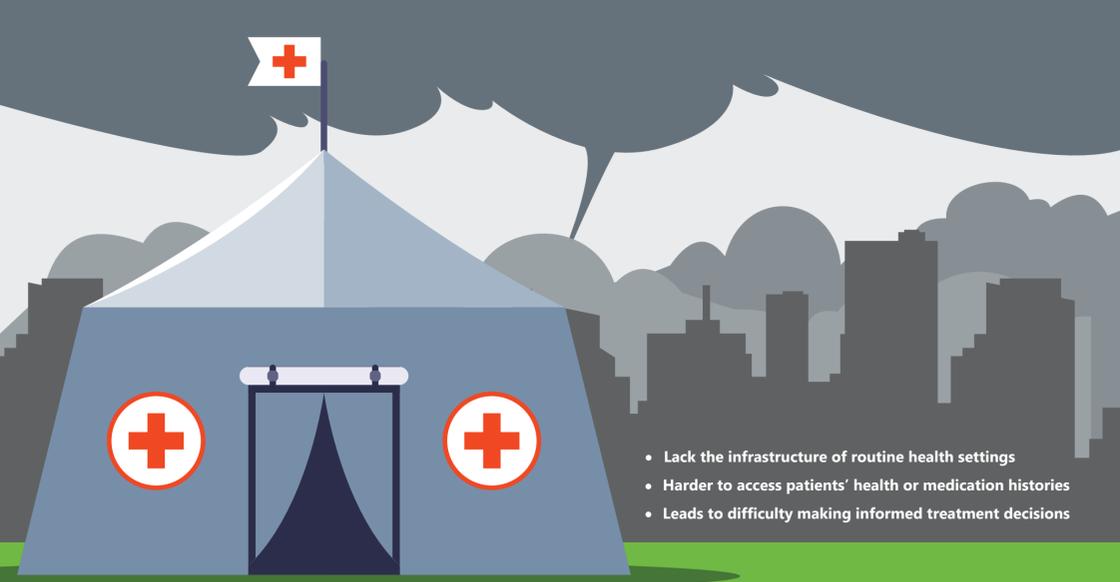


While use of health information technology to advance coordinated patient care is a well established in the healthcare sphere...



...this approach is not fully adopted in disaster and emergency response solutions.

Alternate Care Facilities During Disasters



- Lack the infrastructure of routine health settings
- Harder to access patients' health or medication histories
- Leads to difficulty making informed treatment decisions

During emergencies, patients can be displaced from their communities, sometimes ending up several hundred miles away from their normal healthcare providers.



Patient Tracking

As patients are displaced, and as the scale of an incident increases, so may the need for expanded assistance—from the local, state, regional, and federal levels, as well as healthcare coalitions and health systems.

This requires a coordinated effort across these entities to identify a system that works well in their specific jurisdiction.

Medication Adherence

Medication maintenance is one of the most common healthcare needs following disasters, and medication interruption for even a short period of time can be of great risk to people living with chronic conditions.

Patients with heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disorders may require additional medical technology for condition management. Additionally, disasters may also put individuals with limited mobility, those that are pregnant, and those that are dependent on caretakers at increased risk for adverse health outcomes.



60% of adults have a **chronic disease***



40% have **two or more chronic diseases***



Almost 90% of older adults regularly take at least **one prescription drug****



Family Reunification Efforts

While family reunification is often seen as a non-clinical issue, it has significant overlap with medical facilities during emergency situations.

A key part of a reunification plan is registration, intake, and tracking of displaced persons. In most cases, this is a manual and disjointed effort, often conducted over the phone, and utilizing significant personnel resources.



After disasters, delays in reunification of children with their families are projected to increase mortality from **14 percent to 16 percent.**

Delayed family reunification is also projected to increase the cost of inpatient care by **21 times greater.**

How Audacious Inquiry Can Help

Audacious Inquiry's Patient Unified Lookup System for Emergencies (PULSE Enterprise™) and Emergency Census™ solutions were developed with preparedness challenges and providers in mind, to facilitate the exchange of health information during declared disasters.

As the nation prepares for more potential disasters, PULSE Enterprise and Emergency Census are available for emergency preparedness and public health stakeholders to best meet community, state, and federal needs during and after emergencies.



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