NCDMPH Releases Second and Third Online Pediatric Lessons

This fall, NCDMPH released two accredited online lessons dedicated to pediatric disaster health. Written by subject matter experts and peer-reviewed by leaders in the field, these enduring resources provide valuable information to the disaster health workforce.

“Radiation Issues in Children: An Approach to the Patient” is a primer that discusses the unique needs of pediatric patients during and after exposure to radiation. Gary Crouch, MD, MHSA, Col (Ret), USAF, MC authored this primer, which is targeted to healthcare providers who may be responsible for the medical assessment and management of pediatric patients affected by a radiation disaster, particularly a nuclear detonation. Dr. Crouch is Vice Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

“This resource is unique because it is pediatric focused whereas resources like this primer are usually adult focused,” Dr. Crouch said. “In addition, this primer points learners in the direction of other resources.”

The primer is accredited for two-hours of continuing education credit for 14 professions. After reading the document, learners should be able to: apply basic concepts of ionizing radiation to pediatric disaster patients; describe unique pediatric management priorities after ionizing radiation incident exposures; and develop an appropriate clinical management plan for the pediatric radiation disaster patient and manage the case in collaboration with appropriate consultants. Before reading the primer, learners are encouraged to take the 10-question “Knowledge Check” to assess their knowledge of ionizing radiation.

Sequentially, NCDMPH released the online lesson “Psychosocial Impacts of Disasters on Children” authored by David J Schonfeld, MD, FAAP. Dr. Schonfeld is the Pediatrician-in-Chief at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children and the Chair for the Department of Pediatrics at Drexel University College of Medicine. He also serves as the director at the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement, an institution at St. Christopher’s Hospital that assists children in the bereavement and grief process by providing resources to schools and guardians.

“In the aftermath of a disaster, a wide range of healthcare providers and other adults who generally support children, such as educators and youth development workers, are in an excellent position to provide helpful advice to parents and other caregivers about how to mitigate the negative impacts of disasters on children,” Dr. Schonfeld said. “In addition, they can identify children experiencing psychological distress that would benefit from additional assistance and promote strategies that accelerate the adjustment and coping for a wide range of children and their families.”

These new resources follow NCDMPH’s release last year of Tracking & Reunification of Children in Disasters, an accredited online lesson authored by Dr. Sandy Kimmer, Dr. Brian Altman and Mrs. Kandra Strauss-Riggs, MPH. This lesson focuses on responding to an unaccompanied child in a disaster.

With all of these resources, NCDMPH continues to contribute to national resiliency by addressing the needs of a critical vulnerable population. NCDMPH thanks Dr. Crouch and Dr. Schonfeld for authoring these enduring products. NCDMPH developed these no cost activities in cooperation with Professional Education Services Group, an accredited CME company.

http://ncdmph.usuhs.edu
On September 17th and 18th, NCDMPH hosted “Learning in Disaster Health: A Continuing Education Workshop” in Washington, DC. This interdisciplinary event included sessions discussing learning in the context of disaster health and presentations of original research via a poster competition. The event concluded with a keynote speech by Senator Tom Daschle.

Sessions brought together attendees from a variety of backgrounds in disaster medicine, human resource development, and adult education. Attendees in breakout sessions explored topics such as: maximizing transfer of learning in disaster health training and response; identifying learning gaps regarding education and training for responding to populations with special needs; and harnessing social media for adult learning. Tweeting about workshop content to the hashtag #LDH13 allowed attendees to continue the conversations about sessions beyond the event. Attendees using social media also provided references to attendees on Twitter that were referred to by the speaker and asked each other clarifying questions about the content.

NCDMPH thanks the 200 plus attendees and presenters who joined us for this unique event. If you missed LDH’13, visit the NCDMPH website for workshop proceedings, presentation materials, and poster abstracts.
Research updates & activities from NCDMPH

The National Center research team has made considerable progress on their research projects since the last newsletter. Below are some updates on ongoing projects as well as an announcement on a new collaborative effort.

Healthcare Coalitions as a Potential Vehicle for Disaster Health Education & Training:

Healthcare Coalitions as a Potential Vehicle for Disaster Health Education and Training is focused on healthcare coalitions. This research explores the interests, activities, and education and training needs within healthcare coalitions that best assist in building and sustaining coalitions. Senior Research Associate Lauren Walsh and Project Associate Kelly Harrison Gulley finished field data collection during the summer. Research Associate Hillary Craddock joined the project during the last leg of research in the field and assisted with interview coding. Currently, the team is doing qualitative analysis of the data. They aim to submit final results for publication next year. The team will also be presenting preliminary data at the 2013 National Healthcare Coalition Conference and will continue gathering more information about the current healthcare coalition landscape. The team thanks everyone who participated in the research.

Examining Long-Term Community Recovery to Identify Opportunities for Improved Education & Training:

This study explores the roles of disaster health workforce in the weeks and months following Hurricanes Irene and Sandy via a community-level analysis of the recovery from these events. NCDMPH’s research team aims to examine the lived experiences of the Emergency Support Function-8 workforce during the recovery from disasters to identify their education and training needs. The research team has completed the first data collection portion, which was focused on Hurricane Irene. Senior Research Associate Lauren Walsh and Research Associate Hillary Craddock recently began the data collection for the Sandy portion of the study and plan to be finished by the end of January. Qualitative data analysis will continue through the winter. The research team would like to thank the many professionals who contributed to the research.

NCDMPH’s Disaster Learning Webinar Series

This fall, NCDMPH launched a webinar series dedicated to topics and concepts related to disaster health learning. This series will feature subject matter experts, as well as updates and products from the National Center. These events are free to the public and accessible on all mobile devices. Past events include Learning in Disaster Health presenter John J. Burke’s presentation “Health, Medicine, & Reunification in School Disasters” which discussed best practices for school evacuation preparedness. Another LDH ’13 presenter Dr. Richard King hosted a webinar discussing “Disaster Health Education: Context, Capabilities, and Competencies.” Dr. King’s webinar session concentrated on the capabilities and competencies section of his talk at LDH ’13.

The December webinar featured the following two poster winners at LDH’13.

- “Training Social Work Students through Disaster Work” by Patricia Findley, DrPH, MSW
- “Integration and Performance of Mental Health Triage Core Competencies in Los Angeles County Statewide Disaster Exercise” by Sandra Shields, LMFT & Merrit D. Schrieber, PhD

Save the date for the following presentations:

- January 21st at 1 p.m: Presentation by LCDR Skip. A Payne, USPHS, a program officer at the Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps
- February 11th at 1 p.m: CDR Jonathan D. White, Ph.D, of the Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response, Administration of Children and Families

All NCDMPH webinars are live-captioned and recordings and slides are available online at NCDMPH.usuhs.edu.

Continued on page 4 …
NCDMPH welcomes Hillary Craddock and Thomas Fitzgerald to the team

In support of funded initiatives, the National Center has added two staff members.

Ms. Hillary Craddock, MPH

Ms. Craddock brings significant experience to NCDMPH. Her previous research focused on influenza epidemiology with a special focus on household dynamics of infection, vaccine effectiveness, and risk assessment. With a public health practice background in disaster and post-disaster assessment and community outreach, Ms. Craddock provides valuable insight and knowledge into the public health facet of NCDMPH’s work. Her educational background includes a BS in Biology from Penn State and an MPH in Epidemiology from the University Of Michigan School of Public Health.

NCDMPH was also fortunate to bring Thomas Fitzgerald, MPH to the staff as a Project Associate. Mr. Fitzgerald comes to NCDMPH from the Boston University School of Public Health where he earned an MPH in Epidemiology. Before studying at BU, Mr. Fitzgerald received a BS in Health Policy & Management from Providence College. Mr. Fitzgerald will coordinate the pediatric radiation online cases as well as assist on other upcoming projects.

Mr. Thomas Fitzgerald, MPH

Mr. Fitzgerald brings a wide variety of valuable skills to the team. For his MPH practicum, Mr. Fitzgerald investigated the increased incidences of legionellosis in Massachusetts in relation to acute and extreme weather events with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s Infectious Disease Epidemiology Division. Mr. Fitzgerald also worked directly with the disaster health workforce via his role as an administrator of the Medical Reserve Corp volunteers. Other emergency management experience includes developing and executing large-scale influenza exercises for the Rhode Island Department of Health, developing RI’s special needs emergency registry, and developing and executing a program with the MRC to identify and assist residents with access and function needs.

NCDMPH welcomes Ms. Craddock and Mr. Fitzgerald to the team. Continue to visit ncdmph.usuhs.edu to learn more about their work.

Examining and Enhancing Public Health Workers’ Sense of Efficacy toward Hurricane Sandy Recovery:

This summer, NCDMPH, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the State of Maryland’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene received funding for a competitive CDC grant to investigate long-term recovery after Hurricane Sandy. The effort will be led by principal investigator Daniel Barnett, MD, MPH of the Bloomberg School of Public Health and supported by NCDMPH and the State of Maryland’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. National Center staff involved in the project will be responsible for the creation, implementation, and evaluation of an evidenced based educational intervention to increase self-efficacy and threat perceptions among local public health workers.