Hospital Evacuation Plan

The Problem

As part of the emergency management plan, its crucial that Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center is prepared for both horizontal and vertical evacuation while delivering care when the environment can longer support it.

Aim/Goal

The goal of Emergency Management was to provide staff members with processes for evacuating patients safely and efficiently to alternate care sites with continuity of care as the priority.

The plan, which is compliant with Joint Commission evacuation standards, identifies leadership roles and responsibilities, education training and exercise processes, distribution and orientation to equipment, and a maintenance and evaluation program that hospital units should adhere to in efforts to ensure effective hospital preparation.

The Team

- Emergency Management Program
- Five validation workgroups
  - Clinical
  - Movement
  - Logistics
  - Incident Facilities
  - External Liaison

The Interventions

- Development of a comprehensive Hospital Evacuation Plan.
- Validation of the plan through all five workgroups
- Development of training schedule and conduction of exercises for all staff.
- Meeting with community partners throughout the LMA to align plans and expectations.

The Results/Progress to Date

- The plan has been validated by all workgroups.
- Tiered training has been developed and implemented based on staff roles.
- All inpatient areas have had individualized Evacuation Awareness training with hands-on use of the MedSled evacuation equipment.
- "GO Kits" evacuation support supplies have been distributed into all inpatient areas.
- Training will be incorporated into fire drills and orientations.

Lessons Learned

- All inpatient areas must be independently evaluated to develop efficient evacuation methods based on their specific patient populations, architecture, and staffing capabilities.
- The development and implementation of a hands-on training was incredibly well-received and contagious.

Evacuation: What's Next?

Emergency management will begin training and evaluating ambulatory care areas for evacuation preparedness and also begin exercising the plan with senior leadership beginning with tabletop exercises leading to full-scale exercises functional with community partners throughout the LMA.

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