

Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee
RESF-8 Health and Medical – *Hospital Section*
April 6, 2011
East Hartford Public Safety Complex
East Hartford, Connecticut

Present: See attached attendance list (page 4)

The meeting was opened at 11:55 a.m.

Chairman Mr. Falaguerra convened the meeting.

Proposal for a Region 3 Healthcare Mutual Aid Plan (HMAP):

- Scott Aronson from Russell Phillips & Associates, LLC had previously provided a written proposal to CREPC staff. Copies will be distributed separately to the Hospitals Section members as an attachment to these minutes. He noted the term “mutual aid” is commonly understood that hospitals will help each other in a crisis situation. But what are missing today are the detailed mechanisms that define how this will be done. His group has completed several such projects in Massachusetts, New York, Washington State and Nevada, along with regional systems that have been developed to resolve this dilemma.
 - Each hospital assists in creating a detailed list what resources it has available using tools that provide the same delineation as for other facilities in the region. These resources include staff, equipment, supplies and medications.
 - Transportation capabilities for each hospital are also identified.
 - Each hospital evaluates its surge capacity for several detailed and discrete clinical areas.
 - Routine updates are maintained for bed capacity for each of these defined clinical areas.
 - A web-based application is made available to record and update the information, with summaries shared among the hospitals. For example, in a widespread emergency, if an elderly cardiac patient without trauma is presented at a local hospital where appropriate CCU and ventilator care isn’t available, a quick check of the data sheets can identify the nearest appropriate facility with the required resources available. Transportation capabilities can also be identified if all available EMS units are tied up at the disaster scene.
 - A hospital-specific coordination center can be established to assist in matching resources to needs – this would be below the level of the CREPC Regional Coordination Center (RCC) and would focus only on the matching hospital needs and resources. This group may be integrated with the long Term Care Coordinating Center if deemed appropriate based on operational responsibilities.

- The functions of the proposed planning for a mutual aid system would include:
 - Real-time alerting and activation of the region’s hospitals when an emergency occurs.
 - Common algorithms for “disaster struck” and “Patient receiving” hospitals.
 - Transportation of resources, as needed, between facilities in the region
 - Capability for partial or complete hospital evacuation
 - Transfer of patients from and to the equivalent appropriate levels of care
 - Patient tracking throughout the region to complement EMS operational strengths.

- Coordination and cooperation with the Department of Public Health to address regulatory and payer policies and procedures.
- Memoranda of agreement between participants defining specific functions.
- For Region 2, in Massachusetts, this type of project has been completed. In their planning, and in cooperation with the Massachusetts Mutual Aid Planning (MAP) group for long term care, up to 3,000 patients (including an estimated 300 wheelchair patients) can be transported between hospitals if those resources are not available.
- In the discussion, it was identified the estimated cost for this regional project will be \$130,000. If hospitals have to pay for this, one approach would be to include this as a project in next year's grant proposal to the DPH. Discussion was held on the number of hospitals participating, and whether the cost per hospital would be identical for each or pro-rated based on the number of beds. These issues will be discussed later. It was agreed to decide by the end of April if the RESF-8 Hospital Section supported this proposed program. Mr. Falaguerra agreed to send out a copy of the written proposal to each of the hospitals in the region. With this, he will request an indication back if each hospital supports going ahead with this project.

The June 2011 Regional Hospital Exercise Planning Subcommittee report:

- Ms. Nagle distributed copies of the proposed list of objectives and suggested inserts or messages that each hospital had provided to her. (*See Attachment 1, pp 5-8, below*).
- The implementation of various aspects of the scenario will start notionally days in advance. An event will be identified later that would cause a conference call with DPH officials, and this conference call would be the opening of the exercise on June 15.
- Discussion focused on the need for each hospital to take this list of objects and injects back to be reviewed to determine which of these each hospital wanted to consider for their use. It was noted that this distribution and review should be limited to hospital exercise planning personnel and not given to anyone who will be a “player” participating in the exercise. Care should be given not to have copies of this list (serving as a MESL) at the operating centers of the hospitals during the exercise for people to look up and anticipate the next inject that will soon be coming.
- Discussion focused on the need for each hospital to have its separate controllers and sim cell. Part of this discussion also planned for the location of a regional sim cell to support the hospitals as a group. At the end of the discussion, it was noted the objectives and injects are for the individual hospitals. A suggestion was made to consider the value and function of an added single sim cell for the region. What questions and requests for guidance might the regional sim cell receive? If the only function would be to simultaneously release injects to two or more hospitals, could not this be done by stating the common times these injects will be released at the hospitals. Further discussion will follow.

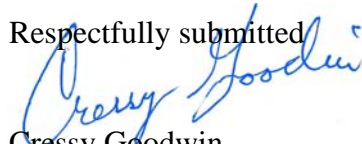
- The DPH will participate. Their roles include the activation of the credentialing registry should any requests for additional licensed staff be made by a hospital. Other roles will be defined and communicated later.

Follow Up Meeting:

- It was agreed that a follow up meeting of the group is needed. Not all members will be at the CREPC Mid Term Planning Conference next week. Mr. Falaguerra will schedule and announce a conference telephone call to continue the discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Cressy Goodwin
Recorder

ATTENDANCE:
CREPC ESF-8 – Hospital Section Meeting

April 6, 2011

Name	Affiliation	e-mail Address
Margaret Swart (intem)	DPH	
John Stendera	DPH	john.stendera@ct.gov
Bob Paquerra	SFHC	
Edward Kramer	HH	ekramer@hart Hosp.org
Donald Cyr	HSC	DCYR@HASC.ORG
Mark Petrone	John Dempsey Hospital	petrone@uchc.edu
MARGE LETITIA	ECHN	MLETITIA@ECHN.ORG
Gawda Nagle	Bristol hospital	Lnagle@bristolhospital.org
Laura Nagle	Bristol Hospital	Lnagle@bristolhospital.org
John Burnap	HH	JBurnap@hart Hosp.org
CRESSY GOODWIN	ESF-8	CGOODWIN@TRAC.NET

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Attachment 1: Draft MESL for June 2011 Hospital Exercise

HOSPITAL DRAFT APRIL 3 2011CROCK20Treat2K20WMD20FE-%20MSEL-%20MAK-%2025%20MAs%202011-2

Inject Time	From	Inject To	Inject Means	Inject/Event Description	Expected Actions	Additional Comments	Were Expected Actions Accomplished?
SimCell	generic hospital			This is an exercise "This is Kathy Ovard, I'm a Resident Advisor here at St. Joseph College. We have a student who has a cut on her hand that's beginning to blister and itch. She was in the cafeteria when they say the anthrax was but didn't eat any food. We know you're busy, but we wanted to know if we should bring her in for a check-up?" This is an exercise	Antibiotic Treatment.		
SimCell	generic hospital			This is an exercise "This is Hamden Hills Apartment's Manager Tracy Soleja. We have a pregnant girl here, who's vomiting blood and has severe diarrhea. She said she recently visited her cousin out at Saint Joseph College. Should we bring her in or call an ambulance to come and pick her up? She says she's feeling better after the three up, but I don't want to get her near any other tenants if she's contagious." This is an exercise	Antibiotic Treatment. Neonatal specialist involved.		
SimCell	generic hospital			This is an exercise "This is Judith at (Local) Hospital. We did an inventory last night on personal protective equipment (PPE) in stock; the suppliers are out of stock and are not filling their contracts. Can the county or State get us additional supplies? We need to protect our staff." This is an exercise	shouldn't this be SEOC?		
SimCell	generic hospital			This is an exercise "This is the (Local) Hospital. Our insurance coverage informed us that we will not be covered with the State medications. Is the State going to cover the liability insurance?" This is an exercise	shouldn't this be SEOC?		
SimCell	generic hospital			This is an exercise "This is Chris Martin, I'm calling from the Hartford Courant. I've been in touch with Dr. Smith from the (Local) Hospital, and he is stating that his hospital will be admitting, decontaminating, and isolating any patient that comes into their hospital with exposure symptoms and that they will remain there until lab results are returned. In fact, he stated that he couldn't believe that any responsible hospital would do anything differently. Could you give the official policy on this situation? Can you fax me something that I can put on our Web site and maybe use in a story? My fax number is [SimCell Fax Number]." This is an exercise			
SimCell	generic hospital			This is an exercise "Hello, this is Krystin Findlay with the MedCare Express Urgent Care clinic in Newington. We've had assistance come in displaying signs of possible anthrax poisoning. We've quarantined these individuals ourselves, but we don't have any vaccinations. Would you be able to get us some?" This is an exercise			
West Hartford	generic hospital			This is an exercise "This is Officer McGrady with the West Hartford PD. We're here at Saint Joseph and have been able to keep crowd control down but we have quite a few students asking us to check out possible symptoms of anthrax poisoning. We don't know what we're looking for! We could really use some more nurses down here!" This is an exercise			
SimCell	generic hospital			This is an exercise "This is Spencer Douglas at Ellis Manor Home for the Elderly. I heard about the recent outbreak of anthrax and we have quite a few immunocompromised patients which receive visitors. Should we be taking any further precautions with our immunocompromised patients?" This is an exercise			
SimCell	generic hospital			This is an exercise "This is Jennifer Musselman with the Assumption School in Manchester. We take care of preschool aged children who commonly have colds. I was wondering if we could get some health care experts here to take a look at our children in general and brief our staff on what precautions to take." This is an exercise			
SimCell	generic hospital			This is an exercise "This is Eva Mendez with Channel 8 WTNH News. I was wondering how many patients have already been confirmed cases of anthrax poisoning? What general precautions should the public be taking? Is there any way we can come by and maybe get some footage at the hospital?" This is an exercise			
SimCell	generic hospital			THIS IS AN EXERCISE "This is Kara Sundlin from WFSB Eyewitness News. We are getting reports that our hospital just had the first fatality related to anthrax. Can you confirm this information? What was the age of the patient and what symptoms did they display? Our sources are telling us that this type of Inhalation Anthrax has a high fatality rate? Can you tell me how many patients are currently in your hospital with Anthrax related symptoms?" THIS IS AN EXERCISE.	Hospital PIC requests update from EOC looks to DPH for scripted message? Information posted on WebEOC		
Hospital Controller	generic hospital			THIS IS AN EXERCISE! EOC shift change 8:00am Prepare for DPH conference call at 0830. HICS 214-Operational Log reviewed past 8 hours. HICS 259-Hospital Casualty/Fatality Report reviewed. Both forms completed prior to Start-X specific to each institution's surge needs. "Currently hospital has _____ patients waiting to be seen in the ER with symptoms consistent with GI Anthrax. _____ # of patients in the ER waiting for inpatient beds. _____ # on ventilators awaiting ICU beds. _____ # waiting for med/surg beds. _____ pediatric waiting for transfer to Childrens Hospital. _____ # of patients seen in the ER overnight. "worried well" wanting to be checked & get antibiotics. _____ # expired overnight. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	EOC formulates IAP for next operational period. Consider cancelling outpr procedures for next couple operational periods		

Attachment 1: Draft MESL for June 2011 Hospital Exercise

HOSPITAL DRAFT APRIL 3 2011 CROCG\20Threat\20WMD\20FE-920MSEL-920MAK-920Z9\920Mar\9202011-2

SimCall	generic hospital	DPH Conference call will require dial in information for each participating hospital	THIS IS AN EXERCISE Morgue reaching capacity, 2 funeral homes have refused to pick up bodies due to "possible anthrax diagnosis", OCME office overwhelmed, can only get answering machine & leave a message to report death. THIS IS AN EXERCISE THIS IS AN EXERCISE "DPH conference call begins at 08:30 with a briefing from DPH lab, epidemiology, etc. Public health action plan reviewed. Recommendations given for hospitals regarding care of patients with suspected anthrax. Review surveillance system for region. Review Mass Dispensing Plan. Scripted message for public information revealed, available on WebEOC. Continued updates will be posted on WebEOC. Question & answer period for hospitals to DPH. Questions will be pre-designed before exercise. Recommendations for treatment of acutely ill & recommendations for prophylaxis of "worried well, confirmed exposed".	Hospital to look at own MFP & plan for deceased surge
SimCall	generic hospital	DPH Conf Call	THIS IS AN EXERCISE SNS stockpile of antibiotics ready for deployment to hospitals. Please identify who will be in receipt, provide name. Assure security on hand to escort State Police to Pharmacy. Pharmacy to identify secure location for SNS medications. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Requested DPH information for SNS procedure to be faxed to "DPH" Form for hospitals to complete can be downloaded & printed via WebEOC. Provide Fax # for hospitals to use.
Hospital Controller	generic hospital	DPH Fax	THIS IS AN EXERCISE Form for SNS reception must be completed by Director of Pharmacy.	Fax back to DPH "SimCall"
Hospital Controller	generic hospital	Hospital EOC to call City PHD to review plan to keep "worried well" away from hospital ER.	THIS IS AN EXERCISE Hospital to consult with local public health dept regarding PODs for mass dispensing. Information to share with local residents, script message regarding who should go to POD, who requires MD evaluation & city EM plans for getting message out to public. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Hospital to evaluate & plan for activation of ACF plan. Major concern is staffing ACF
SimCall	generic hospital	WebEOC	THIS IS AN EXERCISE Governor by declaration of State of Emergency has given hospitals clearance to open ACF sites. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	
Hospital Controller	generic hospital	verbal	Plan for activation & staffing of ACF. Consult local public health dept to activate staffing MOU for ACF. Can this be included as part of POD?	
Hospital Controller	generic hospital	verbal	THIS IS AN EXERCISE Emergency Dept requests help. Waiting room full, people standing outside demanding to be evaluated. Only 1 triage RN & 1 security officer in waiting room unable to handle surge THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Activate hospital "call in roster" for all departments. EOC requests activation of Labor Pool. Consults with ER to assess immediate staffing & resource needs.
Hospital Controller	generic hospital	verbal	THIS IS AN EXERCISE Crowd now very unruly in ER & outside in parking lot. No parking. Cars parking in EV/EMS bays. Security unable to control crowd. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Call local PD for assistance. Call city EOC request activation of CERT to assist with traffic control
Hospital Controller	generic hospital	verbal/ER phone	THIS IS AN EXERCISE Out of stretchers, wheel chairs & IV pumps, please provide. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Give to hospital logistics to activate resource staging area. Request Department Rapid Assistance form be faxed to EOC with #'s of staff for Labor Pool & # of defined resources available in each dept.
Hospital Controller	generic hospital	Verbal	THIS IS AN EXERCISE Task EOC with opening Labor Pool & assigning Logistics Section Chief to manage & deploy requested resources. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	
Hospital Controller	generic hospital	ER to EOC	THIS IS AN EXERCISE EMS continues to bring acutely ill patients, hallway now full. # patients waiting for inpatient beds, need to get patients out of ER. Where can admitted patients go that are regular admissions (non-anthrax). THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Decide how to place "non-anthrax" admissions Request discharge list from Case Management. Consider activation of discharge lounge to free up beds. Consider how to staff D/c lounge & location. How is staff call out roster working. Need update of available staffing resources
Hospital Controller	EOC	Communications update regarding results of call out roster request	THIS IS AN EXERCISE Call in roster has been activated, only 25% of staff called willing to come in. Many staff members verbalize concerns over catching anthrax. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	PIO develops message specifically for hospital employees as to the facts of anthrax & safety of employees. Message sent via mass communication methods with second request for staffing assistance.

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HOSPITAL DRAFT APRIL 3 2011 CKCO6%20Threat%20WMD%20FE-%20MISE-%20MAK-%2029%20Mar%202011-2

Hospital Controller	EOC	ER phone	THIS IS AN EXERCISE! What is correct PPE? Do we need to decon those who have been confirmed as directly exposed? What is the protocol? THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Assess decon needs & plan. Need for showers, is just removal of clothes enough, assess upon arrival to hospital campus level of exposure, give plan to ER
SimCell	generic hospital	WebEOC	THIS IS AN EXERCISE! DPH requests update on bed count page of WebEOC every hour THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Address pediatric surge plan
SimCell	generic hospital		THIS IS AN EXERCISE! Staff daycare center at local college now confirmed as positive exposure. List from college includes total of 65 full and part-time children ages 10 weeks to 5 years old. Notification has gone out to parents to have child checked and given prophylaxis. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Hospital to plan for all levels of pediatric care to include basic evaluation of "worried well" to the routine illness and acutely ill pediatric population
SimCell	generic hospital	WebEOC	COMC confirms they have several cases of acute anthrax exposure admitted to their facility. They have no PICU beds, no inpatient surge beds. Waiting room is beyond capacity. Triage staff having hard time separating out normal childhood illness patients from anthrax. It is still flu season and many young children have RSV-signs symptoms similar to respiratory distress with anthrax. COMC can not accept any incoming patients and is asking all regional hospitals to either keep or make arrangements to send critically ill pediatric patients elsewhere, likely out of state as Yale New Haven Health is past pediatric medical & PICU surge as well.	DPH acknowledgement, search in progress for requested staffing
Hospital	DPH	WebEOC	Hospitals requesting activation of ear-vip for pediatric specialists, MDs, RNs, APRN or PA's to supplement staffing for ER, inpatient hospital and ACF. Many hospitals also looking for staffing for ACF for adults & ped population.	Hospital to consider staffing model for pediatric in-patients and ACF/ER
SimCell	generic hospital	phone	THIS IS AN EXERCISE "Hello, this is Mary Duley, I am able to send you one pediatric intensivist and one pediatric APRN. They should arrive to your facility at 15:00 hours today. I will fax over their names and credentials. Please let me know where you would like them to report". THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Hospital plans for additional CERT staff
SimCell	generic hospital	phone/fax	THIS IS AN EXERCISE! The City/Town of _____ has activated their CERT. The mayor/ast selectman can offer you 3 staff to assist your facility. Their names and capabilities will be sent to you by fax. Please tell us where they are to report and what their job will be" THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Hospital to request assistance/activation of state decon resources. Can go through local EM or RCC.
SimCell	generic hospital	phone	THIS IS AN EXERCISE! Worried well population arriving at hospital ER requesting decon is now over _____%. Hospital staff unable to manage decon surge expectations of public. THIS IS AN EXERCISE.	Hospital to consider where can get immediate extra ventilators, consider CPAP. Ethics discussion and request ventilators from RCC/state resources.
Hospital Controller	EOC from ER	verbal	Respiratory Therapy reports they are out of ventilators. There are 3 critically ill patients requiring immediate ventilatory support: Patient (1) 5 year old (18KG) with acute respiratory distress, probable anthrax. (2) 76 year old professor, Dean of Admissions at college-past history COPD, CABG, Prostate CA currently undergoing palliative radiation therapy in acute respiratory distress, multi-system organ failure, (3) 21 year old student with severe respiratory distress and dehydration, likely anthrax.	Assign decon piece away from regular ER traffic
SimCell	generic hospital	phone	THIS IS AN EXERCISE! RCC sending decon resource trailer with staffing, where would you like it set up for decon? THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Call to Bristol PD for backup
SimCell	generic hospital	phone	THIS IS AN EXERCISE! ER now has near riot with crowds outside, car traffic blocking street access for EMS. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Hospital to map out additional security needs, including street perimeter management
SimCell	generic hospital	WebEOC	Governor has activated National Guard to provide security assistance at hospitals and PODs. Please send your security related staffing needs via WebEOC for evaluation	EOC formulates backup communications plan. Activate cell phone plan, notification to hospital departments to use back up phone plan & hospital e-mail. EOC to decide where to place presumed dead pt from car accident on campus.
SimCell	generic hospital	phone	THIS IS AN EXERCISE! Person (ill appearing, passed out) slams car into telephone pole wiping out phone communications, accident is on hospital property. EMS company in ER runs out to assess, pt is dead. EMS requests decision on where to bring body. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	EOC advises homecare where to get information for their clients. EOC notifies Case Management Dept that VNA agencies are at capacity. Discuss impact on ability to discharge hospital inpatients with no VNA availability
SimCell	generic hospital	phone	THIS IS AN EXERCISE "Hello, this is Donna Mirin from XXX/homecare/VNA. We are experiencing a surge of phone calls from worried families and patients wanting assessment and treatment for possible anthrax exposure. We are unable to handle the increased volume with our current patient load, please do not send any further referrals to our agency. We will fax open slots/availability to you daily during this crisis" THIS IS AN EXERCISE.	

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Attachment 1: Draft MESL for June 2011 Hospital Exercise

HOSPITAL DRAFT APRIL 3 2011LCRC6%20Threat%20MIND%20FE-9%20MSEI-9%20MAK-9%2029%20Mar%202011-2

SimCell	generic hospital	phone	THIS IS AN EXERCISE "This is nurse Jackie in the ER, I have a school bus that just pulled up to the ER with 60 college students from CCSU wanting to be checked. I need help now to triage these students. So far I have not let them off the bus. Please send someone to assess them. I am not even sure they were exposed or are sick! THIS IS AN EXERCISE	EOC assigns capable RN/PA/MD to deal with bus. Can determine all are stable, exposed or not, recommend decon off site and visit to nearest POD
SimCell	generic hospital	phone	Student on above bus having grand mal seizure, forgot to take medications. ER asking if patient should go to main ED or to designated Anthrax ED area?	
SimCell	generic hospital ER	CMED	THIS IS AN EXERCISE "MED declares Regional ICI at college campus, infirmary full and past surge with over 40 very sick students, mostly GI symptoms. Please report your bed availability status for Reds, Yellows, Greens." No hospital's allowed diversion. This is an exercise	
Hospital	Sim cell	phone	THIS IS AN EXERCISE "Call to RCC from hospitals asking for patient supplies, stretchers or cots for ER and ACFs. Who can deliver and how soon? Please provide # of stretchers RCC can offer my hospital _____ and the # of cots for my hospitals ACF. We would like XXXX of stretchers for our ER and 100 cots for our ACF." This is an exercise	
SimCell	generic hospital	phone	THIS IS AN EXERCISE Unruly patient with history of bipolar pulls gun in ER. Jumps over registration desk and threatens registration clerk and triage RN. Wants immediate treatment for anthrax, saw on TV news and believes he was exposed and terrorists convinced him to spread the anthrax. States he has a container in coat pocket of anthrax spores. "I will kill you all one way or another!!" THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Hospital initiates active shooter/hostage plan
SimCell	generic hospital	phone/hand held radio	THIS IS AN EXERCISE! Security reports man with gun subdued, local police on scene, scene under control but patient remains homicidal and suicidal so PO refusing to take patient to lock up. Brief medical evaluation by PA reveals patient was not at risk for anthrax exposure, nor does pt have any anthrax on him as stated. PO request pt go to observation psych unit, but ER mental health observation unit full with many unstable psychiatric patients due to the anthrax scare. ED needs surge area for unstable mental health patients and staffing. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	EOC to plan for mental health surge for acute psychiatric illness
SimCell	generic hospital	WeBEOC	THIS IS AN EXERCISE! RCC & DPH request list of NON-ANTHRAX patients that can be transferred to out of state acute care hospitals in order to make room for anticipated anthrax surge. Each hospital to compile a list of patients, age, diagnosis, critical care, medical/surgical resources required to move and care for patients. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	EOC to send message out to patient care units requesting list of potential patient transfers. Discuss decision making schematics of who to transfer out of state. Is patient/family agreeable? How will it impact patient stability?
Hospital	Sim cell	fax	THIS IS AN EXERCISE! Hospitals compile list of transferable patients, request RCC assistance with placement, location & mode of transportation-EMS ground/air. Time frame of expected transfer-24-48 hours. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	FMOP plan activation-via WeBEOC plan basics sent to hospital EOCs for reference/explanation. Hospitals prepare for partial evacuation of non-anthrax patients.
SimCell	generic hospital	phone	THIS IS AN EXERCISE! Multiple media gathering outside ER and front of hospital because your hospital has had 1st anthrax related death from anthrax. Media trucks taking up space in streets around hospital making travel difficult. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Hospital EOC designates area for media to park & gather in one central location and provide staff to maintain area (PR rep & security at minimum).
SimCell	generic hospital	phone	THIS IS AN EXERCISE! Hysterical family member of newly deceased talking to media regarding poor care given by hospital. Hospital did not know patient had anthrax, now blaming hospital for 20 year old female's death. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	PIO to develop response message and update for media-PLAN TO HOLD ACTUAL PRESS CONFERENCE WITH CAMERA TO RECORD STAGED MEDIA REPORTERS WITH ACTUAL QUESTIONS AS PART OF THIS EXERCISE IF YOUR FACILITY WANTS TO EXERCISE PIO COMMUNICATIONS
Hospital Controller		verbal	THIS IS AN EXERCISE! Stage press conference for media, supply camera, reporters (actors) and questions to be answered by hospital PIO & subject matter experts. THIS IS AN EXERCISE	Hospital to hold staged press conference.
END EX				