Aid - When There is “Nothing Left to Offer”: A Survey and Qualitative Study of Ethics and Palliative Care During International Humanitarian Emergencies

Lisa Schwartz1, Matthew Hunt2, Elysee Nouvet3, International Humanitarian Emergencies

Results: Survey results and preliminary analysis of interviews: It is important for humanitarians to identify and discuss ethical challenges and problems, to ensure responses to emergencies are not disconnected or lead to negative impacts. While this paper cannot show saturation of the types of ethical challenges facing humanitarian healthcare organizations, it is a move to bring stories forward and formalize and capture histories so we can learn from them.

Conclusion: It is important for humanitarians to identify and discuss ethical challenges and problems, to ensure responses to emergencies are not disconnected or lead to negative impacts. While this paper cannot show saturation of the types of ethical challenges facing humanitarian healthcare organizations, it is a move to bring stories forward and formalize and capture histories so we can learn from them.

Our study helps illuminate ethical and practical concerns for applying palliative care in humanitarian crisis.

Developing the Disaster Medical Assistant Team Education and Training Program (DMAT)

Soon-Joo Wang
Hallym University, Hwaseong/Republic of Korea

Study/Objective: The study objective is to create the contents and program in disaster medical training system.

Background: Disaster medical education and training were not mandatory in Korea, but several kinds of programs existed. The disaster medical education and training has been mandatory in Korea since 2014. The newly developed official disaster medical education and training system, which should be applied from 2015, was necessary.

Methods: We reviewed the disaster medical education and training program in advanced countries including the US, EU and Japan, and compared them with the existing programs in Korea. After analysis and comparison, a new contents and program for Korean situations was developed, and they were applied to the pilot program repeatedly for confirmation of adequate educational effect.

Results: First, the official national disaster medical manual was developed, and the contents and programs were developed after that. The program includes the following:
- disaster medical system
- Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) operation
- logistics
- sample activities of DMAT
- radiologic disaster
- chemical disaster
- disaster mental health support
- communication system in disaster
- in hospital disaster
- equipment preparedness for EMAT
- table top simulation
- comprehensive disaster drill

Conclusion: For medical response in a disaster, the standard minimal requirement for disaster medical education and training should be developed, and disaster medical personnel should participate in this program.

Vulnerable Populations: Investigating Ethical Implications for Policies and Practices of International Humanitarian Organizations

Lisa Eckenwiler1, Ayesha Ahmad2, Ryoa Chung3, Matthew Hunt4, Jackie Leach Scully5, Lisa Schwartz6, Nina Wild7

Conclusion: Palliative care is an area of growing global concern. It is increasingly recognized as necessary, yet simultaneously seen as outside the realm of possibility, particularly in humanitarian settings, where care in life threatening conditions may be logistically and ethically challenging. The 67th World Health Assembly resolved on "strengthening palliative care as a component of comprehensive care throughout the life course."