Disaster Health Education and Training: A Pilot Questionnaire to Understand Current Activities

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Introduction: Following a World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) Seminar to progress Disaster Education and Training held by the Education Committee in Brussels in October, 2004, it was apparent that there was no single tool available to assess knowledge, skills, and resources within this field. It was decided to pilot such a tool using the fifty delegates present to assess whether it would facilitate information sharing and curriculum development in disaster health education.

Methods: The WADEM Education committee had devised a reference scheme based on seven educational levels within a framework based on the Bradt model. A questionnaire was developed, based on this scheme, to answer the following questions:

1. Was training delivered using seminars, lectures, papers or books?
2. Was it delivered face-to-face or by distance learning?
3. Was it occasional or routine?
4. Was it delivered as part of initial training or as continuing education?
5. To whom is it given and by whom?
6. What competencies are taught?
7. Is there a charge?
8. Is it accredited, either internally or externally?
9. In what language is it delivered?

The pilot was sent out to all delegates and the responses were analyzed.

Conclusions: The pilot proved to be a useful tool to share knowledge within the WADEM. It could be updated and repeated regularly (possibly annually). Wider use is recommended to evaluate current educational resources, not only in disaster medicine, but also in the wider educational field. It will facilitate the development and audit of accredited courses.

References:

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National Strategy of Training Disaster Medicine Service Experts in Russia

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Introduction: Technogenic accidents and disasters have increased over the last three years in Russia. In this context, a greater importance is given to problems of terrorism, thus necessitating training disaster medicine service experts to reduce health after-effects of emergencies.

The top institution for training of disaster medicine experts is the Institute for Disaster Medicine Problems, located at the All-Russian Centre for Disaster Medicine "Zaschita" (ARCDM "Zaschita"), and in other regions in Russia - regional institutes for advanced medical training constitute a part of disaster medicine sub-faculties.

A primary goal of the national strategy of education involves the training of highly qualified, disaster medicine experts for minimizing emergency after-effects and the realization of the strategy of medical care delivery at prehospital and hospital stages, preparedness of medical institutions for mass admission of the injured and patients, and timely medical care delivery.

Methods: Within the framework of the Institute for Disaster Medicine Problems, the following tasks are being solved: (1) organization and implementation of occupational training and certification of disaster medicine experts in the sphere of management, treatment and prophylaxis; (2) implementation and coordination of scientific research, relating to topical disaster medicine problems; (3) implementation of regional and inter-regional drills on basic disaster medicine problems (radiation and chemical accidents, terrorist attacks, etc.); (4) training scientific and teaching personnel for disaster medicine; and (5) development and introduction of new forms of training (modular training, telemedicine conferences, etc.).

More than 6,000 students underwent training in 20 cycles of disaster medicine professional skills during 2000-2003. Being the Euroasian training center, ARCDM "Zaschita" conducts out-training cycles in NIS-republics.

Discussion: The new standardized curricula were highly praised by the Ministry of Health in Russia and recommended for higher institutions for training disaster medicine experts. The basis of the curricula is formed of modern scientific and practical developments in disaster medicine and provide new teaching aids (information and telemedi-