

## Conference Learnings

Susan Mitchell RN

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Susan\_L.Mitchell@LVH.COM

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarlyworks.lvhn.org/patient-care-services-nursing>



Part of the [Nursing Commons](#)

---

### Published In/Presented At

Mitchell, S. (2013, March 8). *Conference learnings*. Presented at: The Trauma 2013: A Continuum of Care at DeSale's University, Center Valley, PA.

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by LVHN Scholarly Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in LVHN Scholarly Works by an authorized administrator. For more information, please contact [LibraryServices@lvhn.org](mailto:LibraryServices@lvhn.org).

# CONFERENCE LEARNINGS

Trauma 2013: A Continuum of Care  
DeSale's University Center Valley, PA  
March 8, 2013



**Susan Mitchell, RN**

Center for Critical Care Nurse Float pool

# Responding to Mass Casualty Events

## ■ Triage

- Delay treatment of all but the sickest patients until the incident is defined
- Over triage leads to resource consumption

## ■ Communication

- With people on the scene
- Between EMS responders and hospitals
- What will you do if cell phone services are inoperable?

# Responding to Mass Casualty Events

- Patient identification and tracking
  - How will we identify victims?
  - How will we locate victims being treated at other hospitals?
  - How will responding hospitals address HIPPA issues?
  - How can we assist family members trying to locate victims being treated at other area medical centers?
- Family assistance and outreach
  - Establish a family waiting area away from the media
  - Assist family members in locating victims that may have been taken to other area medical centers
  - Anticipate the need for food and lodging, especially for family members that may come from out of the area
- Media management
  - Have a staging area for the media that is away from patient care areas and separate from the family waiting area.
  - Establish a media parking area that does not impede staff and visitor parking.
  - Establish a protocol for regular media updates

# Learning to Consider for LVHN

## ■ Plan Ahead

- Develop a plan for managing mass casualty events
- Appoint crisis managers to address key areas

Communication

Triage

Patient identification and tracking

Family Assistance and outreach

Media management

# Learning to Consider for LVHN

## ■ Staff Training

- Assure that the staff you will depend on in an emergency have been well trained and know your crisis management plan

## ■ Practice, Practice, Practice!

- Have regular practice drills
- Identify potential problem areas
- Revise your plan as necessary

# Group Discussion

- \*What would LVHN do in the event of a mass casualty incident?
- \*What system would we use to accurately triage patients?
- \*How would we conserve resources and avoid OVERTRIAGE?
- \*How would we communicate with other local hospitals who were also receiving victims?
- \*How would we address HIPPA issues?
- \*How would we address the needs of family members?
- \* How would we manage the media response?