

Laboratory Response and Hospital Preparedness in a Chemical Exposure (Terrorism) Event

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Brief Description of Presentation:

Members of the health care team need to be prepared to respond to a large-scale chemical event, whether a result of terrorism or accident. Laboratory testing will play an important role both in patient follow-up and prosecution of perpetrators of intentional acts. This one hour presentation will briefly discuss some of the chemical agents that could potentially be used in an attack, with an emphasis on the laboratory's response.

Objectives:

At the conclusion of this session, the attendee will be able to:

1. List at least 2 types of agents that could potentially be used in a chemical terrorism attack.
2. Describe the role of the hospital and state laboratories in the Laboratory Response Network
3. Identify what specimens to collect from people involved in a chemical exposure event
4. Describe the forensic requirements for collection and handling of specimens following a chemical exposure event
5. Define resources available for proper packaging and shipping of specimens
6. Know whom to contact in the event of a chemical terrorism agent exposure

The length of the presentation is approximately one hour. One nursing CE contact credit is available.

Target audience: persons responsible for ordering the collection of clinical (blood & urine) specimens, and those responsible for the actual collecting, packaging and shipping of clinical specimens. Anyone else who is interested in chemical terrorism is welcome to attend. Please contact Marty at 517-335-9654 or boehmem@michigan.gov to schedule.