

NEHC, ACC and SNS VOLUNTEER STAFFING CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Physicians: Physicians are responsible for directing the medical care provided. This includes the medical evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, and disposition of the patient. All physicians should be credentialed, including the Medical Operations Director. It is recommended that some of the physicians possess training, experience, and competence in acute care settings sufficient to evaluate and initially manage and treat the patients who seek care at the ACC, NEHC or SNS dispensing sites.

Physician Assistants (PA)/Nurse Practitioners (NP): These care providers must possess appropriate credentials and undergo the same credentialing process as the physicians. They are responsible for assisting in the care of the patients, including assessment planning and evaluation of response to medical interventions. They must be able to provide evidence of patient care experience. They must be capable of providing patient care in austere circumstances. Experienced providers with these advanced practice credentials may function as physicians within the ACC, NEHC or SNS dispensing sites.

Nurses and Paramedics: These care providers must possess appropriate credentials as well. They are responsible for the nursing care of patients, including triage, assessment planning and evaluation of response to medical interventions. They must be able to provide evidence of direct patient care experience. They must possess and show evidence of the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver the care required by patients admitted to the ACC or NEHC and do so in austere circumstances. Can also function as triage officers for SNS dispensing sites. Retired RNs may be used in a manner (either as nurses or as nursing assistants) that is consistent with the policies of the affected locality and the State in which the event occurs.

Medical Clerical Personnel: The clerks in the ACC and NEHC are responsible for generating the paperwork necessary to function. They are the facilitators who coordinate moving patients through the ACC and NEHC. They are responsible for answering phones and ensuring that all communications are carried out within the ACC and NEHC. They are required to have some experience in a medical environment and to understand medical terminology. Finally, they are responsible for supervising the nonmedical volunteers in their sections.

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Nursing Assistants and Pharmacy Technicians: These technicians are responsible for providing assistance to the nursing staff in the care and treatment of patients in the ACC, NEHC and SNS dispensing sites. EMTs and Pharmacy Technicians must possess current certification, while nursing assistants should show evidence of either recent relevant experience in providing direct patient care or certification as a nursing assistant or a similar role. All should have actual experience in the medical field using their license/certificate/training. Nursing and medical students may also be potential sources of labor for filling this role.

Pharmacists: Pharmacists will be responsible for oversight of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) dispensing, repackaging and inventory control. Mass vaccination operations will also require pharmacist's oversight. Pharmacist must possess a current Board of Pharmacy license in the State in which the event occurs.

Security Guards: These personnel will be crucial to the successful operation of the ACC, NEHC and distribution of the SNS. Guards will control access points, issue the staff identification (ID) badges, check the ID of anyone entering the facility and be present in certain high-risk areas such as the pharmaceutical dispensary, medical supply areas, family areas, and temporary morgue. Previous security or law enforcement experience is required for these personnel.

Respiratory Therapist: Therapist must possess appropriate credentials in the state where the incident occurs. They will assist physicians, nurses and physician assistants with respiratory management of ACC patients. Responsibilities will include ventilator setup, maintenance and respiratory medication administration. Can provide aggressive airway management as directed.

Volunteers: Non-medical personnel that can be utilized in any capacity necessary to support the ACC, NEHC or SNS. Responsibilities will include but are not limited to: housekeeping, patient transportation, recorded keeping, maintenance, communications and logistical support.

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