Models and Strategies for Effective Delivery of Post-Disaster Health Care Services for Chronic Hemodialysis Patients

While disasters affect the lives of millions of people throughout the world each year, their impact on communities with existing vulnerabilities, such as patients with chronic health conditions (e.g., diabetes, heart and kidney diseases), can be highly severe. For instance, chronic hemodialysis patients, which must receive regular treatments every week in a clinic, are at significant health risk after a disaster if their treatments cannot be timely and sufficiently provided. It is challenging for decision-makers to coordinate and plan the delivery of post-disaster services to these vulnerable groups in the chaotic post-disaster environment under significantly reduced dialysis capacity and increased demands. In a recent project, motivated by earthquake preparedness efforts in Istanbul, we collaborated with the members of the national Renal Disaster Relief Task Force and focused on effective planning and coordination of hemodialysis services for chronic hemodialysis patients after a disaster.

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