

Definitive Care for the Critically Ill During a Disaster
Message Points

1. *Definitive Care for the Critically Ill During a Disaster* (the framework) was developed by the Task Force for Mass Critical Care. The task force consists of 37 senior-level participants with broad expertise relevant to emergency mass critical care (EMCC), representing military medicine, medical societies, institutions, and government agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the US Department of Health and Human Services.
2. The framework was developed to address an unmet need in the area of emergency mass critical care preparedness. It offers the most comprehensive guidance for clinicians, hospitals, and communities planning and implementing a coordinated, uniform response to mass critical care at the local, state, and federal levels.
3. The framework incorporates elements from recent disaster planning efforts from New York, Minnesota, and Ontario, Canada, all of which focused on EMCC at the state level. The current framework is the first to address EMCC surge capacity and allocation of scarce resources at the local, state, and federal levels.
4. The framework intends to maximize the number of individuals who would have access to potential life-saving interventions.
5. During times of EMCC, palliative care will be a priority for all patients. However, when surge capacity is exceeded, scarce critical care interventions will be allocated based on objective medical criteria.
6. The task force advocates for legal protection of clinicians and institutions that follow accepted EMCC protocols while providing care during EMCC events.
7. The framework serves as the beginning of the EMCC planning process. Hospitals, communities, and government groups must take the next steps to modify and implement the framework.