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New Surge Care Guidance Reports

I am providing information on two new guidance reports regarding disaster and surge care:

New Mass Medical Care With Scarce Resources Guide

AHRQ yesterday released a condensed version of a 2007 mass medical care planning guide that contains updated resources and new information specific to H1N1. *Mass Medical Care With Scarce Resources: The Essentials* (<http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/mmcessentials/>) is a resource to prepare for public health emergencies, such as H1N1, when demand for medical resources outweighs supply. The 70 page guide sets out a framework of basic steps that planners may take to prepare for a mass casualty event. It addresses key questions that each community should ask to properly plan for a well coordinated operational response. *The Essentials* guide addresses the following issues:

- [1. Community-Wide Planning](#)
- [2. Ethical Considerations](#)
- [3. Assessing the Legal Environment](#)
- [4. Prehospital Care](#)
- [5. Hospital/Acute Care](#)
- [6. Alternative Care Sites](#)
- [7. Palliative Care](#)
- [8. Influenza Pandemic Preparedness](#)

IOM Altered Standards of Care Report

Attached is a copy of the 161 page IOM report [Guidance for Establishing Crisis Standards of Care for Use in Disaster Situations: A Letter Report](#) and 4 page [Report Brief](#) released yesterday. The report underscores the immediate and critical need to prepare for a public large scale health emergency. In the event of such emergencies, it

is important to describe the conditions under which standards of care would change due to shortage of critical resources.

IOM convened a committee to develop guidance for crisis standards of care that should apply in disaster situations. The committee's report articulates current concepts and guidance that can assist public health officials, healthcare facilities, and professionals in the development of policies and protocols for crisis standards of care in disasters in which resources are scarce. In addition, within the extensive operations section of the report the committee provides guidance to clinicians, healthcare institutions, and state and local public health officials for how those crisis standards of care should be implemented in a disaster situation.