

96 Hour Sustainability Planning

Assessment Process Overview



The 96 Hour Sustainability Assessment provides a process for determining how long a hospital can continue operations with available resources during an extended emergency. It provides a framework to determine sustainability periods and gaps for essential resources, examine mitigation strategies and inform Incident Command during an emergency event.

The process was developed to help meet The Joint Commission's standard relating to 96 hour sustainability, and help's demonstrate compliance with CMS' Conditions of Participation for Emergency Preparedness (§482.15).

The 96 Hour Sustainability Assessment should be conducted by a multi-disciplinary team based on a planning scenario high on the facility's HVA or an all-hazards approach. Planning assumptions include:

- The event will interrupt supplies, services and support from outside the community for 96 hours or more;
- Community support including supply chain and vendor operations may be impacted;
- Multiple scenarios or cascade failures may escalate operational impacts.

The process applies the basic assumption that quantitative calculations of how long resources will last may be made based on average daily census, inventory and annual consumption rates. Assessment tools include:

- **96 Hour Operational Impact Chart** - Visual analysis tracking sustainability periods and gaps;
- **96 Hour Inventory Sustainability Period Calculator** - Quantifies number of hours consumable resources may be sustained using average daily census; annual consumption rate of resources; and actual inventory quantity of resource.

The assessment process consists of the following activities:

- **Identify resources essential to maintaining operations during the scenario.** The 96 Hour Operational Impact Chart is pre-populated with some generally applicable resources that should be modified based on facility operations and the scenario.
- **Determine Annual Consumption Rate of Resources.** Assemble Annual Consumption Rate data for essential resources within department/area of responsibility. For resources which are non-consumable or for which consumption rates cannot be quantified, reasonable planning assumptions should be applied during the assessment.
- **Conduct Resource Inventory.** This may be an actual inventory conducted within a department, or may be drawn from a centralized inventory data system. It should reflect typical inventory levels.
- **Determine Sustainability Period.** For consumable resources which may be quantified (i.e. counted) the Calculator tool may be used. If the Sustainability Period of a resource has been determined using other quantitative methodology, document the data and calculations for review by the Assessment Team.
- **Document supply, mitigation and conservation strategies to extend sustainability periods.** Identify and document relevant facility plans, policies and supply agreements for Assessment Team review.
- **Identify dependent systems and resources.** Dependencies and other considerations which may affect services and operations of other departments should be considered by the Assessment Team as they may expand and escalate operational impacts.