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Impact of Pharmacy for the Surge of Patients with COVID-19

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DESCRIPTION

As the global impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic grows, health-care and public-health systems are increase in COVID-19 patients seeking medical attention. The severity of an illness can range from minor to critical. Those with severe disease must be hospitalized to manage COVID-19 complications. Overburdened hospitals are unprepared for such a surge. As a result, many jurisdictions are establishing alternative care sites for either COVID-19 patients or patients who have not contracted COVID-19. Furthermore, isolation and quarantine facilities are being established so that patients with COVID-19 can remain for the duration of their isolation or those who have been exposed to the virus can remain for a quarantine period.

Pharmaceutical services are critical regardless of the name or format of such alternative care facilities. Pharmacists and other pharmacy personnel play critical roles in reducing the burden and suffering caused by COVID-19. Consistent supply of high-quality essential medicines and other materials and equipment to meet patients' needs is the importance of their roles as key partners to public health agencies by dispensing critical drugs and other medical products, providing patient care services, administering vaccines and providing public information during pandemics and other emergencies.

Describe pharmaceutical services in a large module hospital, also known as an alternative care site Union Medical College Hospital's pharmaceutical department established a pharmacy command structure to oversee the design and implementation of the module hospital's drug supply, drug dispensing, medicine quality control, and clinical pharmaceutical care. A time-tested strategy for event management is a standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of an emergency response. Second, in anticipation of an influx of medical products into the site, the team established a quality-control group. During an emergency, ensuring the quality of purchased and donated drugs is a critical function. Third, careful consideration was given to the site's drug formulary as well as the packaging of medicines for the

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module hospital to ensure patient safety. Proactively defining and acquiring essential medicines for specific health events can help mitigate the common problem of critical drug and other supply shortages during pandemics. Fourth, to limit the danger of pharmacy employees being exposed to COVID-19 while delivering patient services and to maximize social distancing, the team used a variety of technologies to give patient education and promote medication adherence. They built methods for group and private discussions, as well as a mobile radio station. They proved that if typical pharmacy services cannot be supplied during an epidemic or disease outbreak, patient education and medication consulting can be offered *via* the Internet, phone, or video.

A lack of knowledge about the personal protective equipment used by their pharmacy staff. Hand sanitizers, gloves, and face masks are critical for the safety of pharmacy employees. During COVID-19, the Chinese Pharmaceutical Association and the International Pharmaceutical Federation presented guidelines on preventive measures for pharmacy workers. Another disadvantage is the overall lack of published metrics of both the processes and results of pharmacy staff-provided treatment for COVID-19 patients treated at this alternate care facility. The goal of this modular hospital was to provide care for COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms.

More information concerning staffing patterns for the provision of pharmaceutical services in this alternative care environment would have been beneficial. Staff shortages are prevalent during emergency situations. During public health emergencies, it is critical to identify and address any constraints to surge capacity staffing. Despite these limitations, this study provides the health care and public health communities with information that may be useful for developing medication-related services for alternative care venues. As one of the first descriptions of pharmaceutical services performed during the COVID-19 pandemic, they should be applauded for their efforts and for sharing their experiences.