

First Responder & Personnel Who Perform Mission Critical Functions Anthrax, Plague, or Tularemia Post Exposure Prophylaxis

Background

Great progress has been made by state and local public health over the past five years in the planning and execution of mass prophylaxis campaigns for bioterrorism and epidemic outbreak response. The Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI), which requires state and local public health to effectively respond to a large scale bioterrorist event by dispensing antibiotics to their entire identified population within 48 hours of the decision to do so, has driven the development of many innovative planning and response tools. In response to lessons learned during a functional exercise, the Minnesota Metropolitan Region developed a web-based oral antibiotic screening tool for use by first responders and other personnel who perform mission critical functions. The website, www.responderdispense.org, eliminates illegible responses on paper-based forms, reduces errors, saves critical time to screen paper-based forms and ultimately, has the ability to save lives.

The web-based oral antibiotic screening tool, www.responderdispense.org, was developed to ensure the following:

1. Users' medical data will remain confidential.
2. Users may enter their data pre-event or at the time of an emergency.
3. Information will be stored in a database, which enables users to access personal data to update or verify during an event.
4. The appropriate antibiotic is calculated based on answers to screening questions. Medication instructions are tailored to each individual user.
5. An agency administrator (identified for each first responder agency) has the ability to print a report indicating names of personnel, names of household members, and their correct medication dosage. Agency administrators do not have access to personal medical data.

Access for Conference Attendees

Public Health Preparedness Summit attendees may log on to the site; enter personal data; and receive a personalized printable and downloadable dispensing report. The report provides individual dosage requirements; antibiotic use instructions; health care provider letter; and applicable child dosing instructions.

1. Go to www.responderdispense.org
2. Sign in on the left hand side as a new user
3. In the Agency drop down list, select Preparedness Summit 2009
4. Use 2009 as the sign up code
5. Click through the site and enter data for yourselves and your household members

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