



ASHP Foundation

News Release

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ASHP Foundation Offers Reference Tools for Pharmacists on Treating Victims of Biological Agents *Commission believes attack likely by 2013*

BETHESDA, Md. (December 3, 2008) – A Congressional commission released a report warning that terrorists are likely to use a weapon of mass destruction somewhere in the world in the next five years. The report also concluded that terrorists are more likely to use a biological weapon than a nuclear one, with devastating results. CNN quoted former Senator Bob Graham as saying, “The consequences of a biological attack are almost beyond comprehension. It would be 9/11 times 10 or a hundred in terms of the number of people who would be killed.”

Citing anthrax as one example, the commission based its concerns on the availability of biological weapons, the number of individuals in laboratories throughout the world who have access to such materials and a lack of security in and regulation of these laboratories.

In 2006, the ASHP Foundation began developing a number of reference tools to help health-system pharmacists develop emergency preparedness programs for hospitals and health systems. These tools include:

- A laminated reference card, which provides information on the medications used to treat victims of exposure to chemical and biological agents.
- Fact sheets containing more detailed information about various biologic agents that could be used in a terrorism attack, including anthrax, cyanide and nerve agents.

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- Several hours of educational programming that focuses on caring for victims of biological, chemical or radiological exposures.

For more information or to access these tools, visit the [ASHP Foundation's Web site](#).

The ASHP Research and Education Foundation was established in 1968 by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. The mission of the Foundation is to improve the health and well-being of patients in hospitals and health systems through appropriate, safe and effective medication use. The Foundation provides leadership and conducts education and research activities that foster the coordination of interdisciplinary medication management leading to optimal patient outcomes. Emphasis is given to programs that will have a major impact on advancing pharmacy practice in hospitals and health systems, thereby improving public health.

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