



ASHP Foundation News Release

Pandemic Influenza Assessment Tool Helps Hospital Pharmacy Departments Prepare for Worst

World Health Organization says H1N1 has become a global pandemic

News Facts

The World Health Organization today declared that H1N1 has become a global pandemic. As we learned from the H1N1 outbreak that occurred in the U.S. in late April, planning is essential to an effective response to prevention and treatment of influenza. The ASHP Foundation has developed a Pandemic Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Resource Center to provide useful tools to health-system pharmacists. This site includes the **Pandemic Influenza Assessment Tool for Health-System Pharmacy Departments™**, which was made available in 2008 to help pharmacists prepare their departments to play a crucial role in institutional planning and response for an influenza pandemic.

Developed with support from Roche, the on-line tool assists pharmacists in evaluating how prepared their departments of pharmacy are to handle an influenza pandemic and identifying areas for possible improvement in their planning. Pharmacists using the tool complete a series of assessment questions covering the following areas:

- Integration with institutional planning.
- Departmental leadership.
- Public and professional education and training.
- Medications and supplies.
- Staffing.
- Public affairs and communications.

Already, 250 hospitals have used the assessment since its inception in June 2008. New knowledge and information about pandemic influenza planning and response is continually emerging. In an effort to keep the assessment tool relevant and useful to those using it, Roche funded the ASHP Foundation's efforts to enhance the tool by adding some important elements, including:

- A blog to encourage dialogue among users of the tool.
- A "dashboard" that provides summary data from institutions that have completed the assessment.
- A resource section that provides direct links to critically important Web-based information regarding pandemic influenza.
- Regular resource updates, including information on the recent swine flu outbreak.
- Links to the ASHP Foundation's all-hazards emergency preparedness resources.

Suggested Persons to Interview

Daniel J. Cobaugh, Pharm.D., Senior Director for Research and Operations

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Supporting Quote

Attributable to Daniel J. Cobaugh, Senior Director for Research and Operations, ASHP Foundation

“The impact of pandemic influenza affects the public-at-large and the healthcare system. Pharmacists - as medication experts - play a critical role in the healthcare system’s pandemic influenza preparation and response efforts. It is imperative that patients who require antiviral medications have access to them. It is also critically important, during a pandemic, to ensure that healthcare delivery is not interrupted and that patients continue to have access to medications for the treatment of acute and chronic conditions. The resources that are being provided by the ASHP Foundation will support pharmacists as they work to ensure that their patients receive safe and effective care.”

Related Resources

For more information, visit www.pharmacyready.com.

About the ASHP Foundation

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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