

Special Needs Shelterees

In order to clarify / define appropriate evacuees for a Special Needs Shelter (SpNS), we will utilize current state guidelines as well as appropriate nursing / medical judgment. The state resource utilized is the “**Department of Health Public Health Nursing Disaster Resource Guide; August 2000**”. This document is located at the following site:

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/PHNursing/Disaster%20Guide/pdf/doh2.pdf>

Please Note

We should use the guidance from the above resource and prudent nursing practice in triaging evacuees. In recent experience we have had several instances of evacuees that were inappropriate to house in a SpNS due to the limitations of this type of shelter. For example, morbidly obese individuals with mobility limitations need a hospital type bed. Obviously, they aren't able to lie on the floor or a two-inch thick pad; due to difficulty in returning to standing position. In addition, we have had completely immobile individuals, such as quadriplegics seeking admittance; which is beyond the capability of SpNS. Moreover, it is very important to realize that this is a guidance source and is not all encompassing. The above referenced DOH guidance follows.

V. TRIAGE

A. Category 1 - Special Needs Shelterees

1. Shelterees appropriate for placement in the SpNS should be ambulatory (with or without assisting devices, or independent in the use of assisting devices), may include a chronic medical problem, and accompanied by a caregiver.
 - a. Level 1 - Shelterees dependent on others or in need of assistance by others for routine care (e.g. eating, walking, toileting, etc.)
 - b. Level II - Shelterees needing assistance with medical care administration, monitoring by a nurse, dependent on electrical equipment, and/or assistance with medications. Shelteree who can safely sleep on a cot or mat.

Shelterees with the following medical stable or non-complicated medical problems:

- 1) Foley catheter maintenance
- 2) Diabetes
- 3) Medication maintenance (shelteree brings own supplies)
- 4) BP monitoring
- 5) Severe arthritis
- 6) Naso-gastric or gastrostomy tubes (home maintenance)
- 7) Ostomy shelterees
- 8) Alzheimer's Disease
- 9) Stable stroke cases
- 10) Stable cardiac cases
- 11) Stable cancer cases
- 12) Stable oxygen and nebulizer therapy shelteree (e.g. COPD, Asthma)
- 13) Dressings (must have nursing care plan and supplies)
- 14) Hospice shelterees if no conditions listed in Category II

B. Category II - In Hospital Shelterees

1. Level III - Shelterees with the following conditions require more complex care than is available in the SNS. Other arrangements need to be in place with their physician for admission to a hospital or nursing facility. It is advisable that the CHD discuss with area hospitals their capability to accept persons who cannot be admitted to the SpNS well in advance of a disaster.

- a. Infusion (IV) therapy
 - b. Complex sterile dressing changes
 - c. Hyperalimentation
 - d. Oxygen dependent, medically complex
 - e. End-stage, unstable non-DNR shelterees
2. Level IV - These shelterees can not be accommodated who need:

- a. IV chemotherapy
- b. Ventilator care
- c. Peritoneal dialysis
- d. Hemodialysis
- e. Life support equipment
- f. Hospital bed and total care

* Any person arriving at the SpNS by ambulance *must* be sent to an appropriate medical facility.

C. Category III - Shelterees for SpNS

Shelterees with the following conditions may go to a SpNS:

- 1. Blind
- 2. Hearing impaired
- 3. Amputee
- 4. Any minor medical condition not listed

VI. LEVELS OF CARE

CHD nurses and shelter staff will be available to provide basic supportive care to shelterees. The level of care to be provided is limited to the shelter staff's training, qualifications and scope of practice. See **ATTACHMENT 2-A** for Examples of Levels of Care for Special Needs Shelters.

2-A

Examples	American Red Cross Evacuation Center	Special Needs Shelter	Medical Management Facility (Hospital or NH)
Alzheimer's Disease (ALZD)	Early	Moderate	Advance: Bedridden; non-verbal; Refusal to eat; Totally dependent
Ambulating Difficulty (walker, cane, crutches)	√	If other information may indicate a need	
Ameliorating Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) (wheel chair)		√	
Aphasia (communication difficulty)		√	
Arthritis	Self-ambulating	Wheelchair bound	Bed Bound
Asthma	√		
Bronchitis	√		
Cardiac	Stable	Controlled with Med.	Unstable – Having SOB & Angina
Cerebral Palsy		√	
Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA)		Wheelchair bound	Bedridden
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)		Oxygen Use	Oxygen Dependent (End Stage)
Colostomy	√		
Comatose			√
Contagious, severe disease			Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, Measles or Mumps in adult
Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD)			√
Cystic Fibrosis	Stable	Needs Med.	Resp. Compromise
Dementia			Endstage / Bedridden
Diabetes / Hyperglycemia	Insulin and diet controlled	Insulin Administration Assistant Monitoring	
Eating and swallowing disorders	√		
Edema	√		
Emphysema	Not oxygen dependent	Oxygen Use	Oxygen dependent, end stage
Foley Catheter	Stable	Management & Foley Change	
Fractured Bones	√	Pin Site Care Dressing Changes	

Examples	American Red Cross Evacuation Center	Special Needs Shelter	Medical Management Facility (Hospital or NH)
High Blood Pressure/ Hypertension	Stable		
Hip Replacement	>6 Months	<6 Months	
Ileostomy	√		
Knee Replacements	>6 Months	<6 Months	
Medical Equipment Attachments			IV, NG-Tubes, Central Venous Catheters or Tracheostomy Tube (newly placed)
Migraine Headaches	√		
Multiple Sclerosis	Self-ambulating	Wheelchair Bound	Bedbound
Muscular Dystrophy	Self-ambulating	Wheelchair Bound	Bedbound
Neuromuscular Disorders	Self-ambulating	Wheelchair Bound	Bedbound
Osteoarthritis / Osteoporosis	Self-ambulating	Wheelchair Bound	Bedbound
Parkinson's Disease			Advanced
Psychosis	Controlled	Controlled	Uncontrolled
Respirator Ventilator Dependent			√
Seizures	Controlled	Med. Assistance Needed	Uncontrolled
Skin Rashes	Sores / Non-fluid	Open Sores; Draining; Dressing Changes	
Sleep Apnea	Non-electric Dependent		Electric Dependent
Upper Respiratory Infection	√	√ Isolation	
Urinary Tract Infection	√		
Wheelchair Transferable	Mobile with Minimal Assistance	Wheelchair Bound with Other Conditions	Bedbound