

Baltimore City Healthcare Facilities Mutual Aid System Memorandum of Understanding

Summary

- The purpose of this voluntary agreement is to ensure cooperation and sharing of medical resources among Baltimore City's hospitals in the event that a disaster exceeds the capacity of any single hospital to handle.
- The agreement is between 11 hospitals in Baltimore City:

Bon Secours Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital, Harbor Hospital, Johns Hopkins Health System, Johns Hopkins Bayview, Maryland General Hospital, Mercy Medical Center, Sinai Hospital, St. Agnes Hospital, Union Memorial Hospital, and University of Maryland Medical Center

- Under the agreement, the Baltimore City Health Department and the Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management are key coordinators for managing the sharing of necessary personnel and supplies among the city's hospitals.

Key Features

- Involves a significant number of hospitals for a metropolitan city the size of Baltimore. With 11 hospitals involved, the agreement represents the largest coordination among healthcare facilities in Maryland: Baltimore County (5); Prince George's County (7); and Montgomery County (5).
- Addresses all relevant issues regarding the sharing of medical personnel, supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals, as well as the transfer of patients, among hospitals in the event of a disaster.
- Is intended to augment, not replace or supersede, each facility's disaster plan.
- Addresses complex legal questions by providing a detailed framework for the city's hospitals about medical malpractice, workers' compensation, confidentiality, and insurance carrier requirements.
- Provides a framework for the hospitals for continuity of communications and other important logistical matters that occur before, during, and after a disaster.
- Includes the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act regulations for reference. This law governs, among other matters, when and how a patient may be transferred from one hospital to another when that patient is in an unstable medical condition.