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Knowledge of hospital disaster preparedness amongst the emergency department personnel of an academic hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa

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KNOWLEDGE OF HOSPITAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AMONGST THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL OF AN ACADEMIC HOSPITAL IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA.

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A research report submitted to the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, in partial fulfillment for the degree of MMeD

Johannesburg, 2021

DECLARATION

I, **Aanuoluwapo Ademola Abolarin**, declare that this research report is my own work. It is being submitted for the degree of MMeD at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination at this or any other University.



Aanuoluwapo Ademola Abolarin

The 1st day of April 2021

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God’s glory and to all who seek the best possible for humanity.

ABSTRACT

Hospitals play important roles in mitigating the impacts of disaster in a community. In preparing for disasters, the emergency department personnel of a hospital are expected to know the basic components of the hospital's disaster protocol or plan. This prospective observational crossectional study sought to assess the knowledge of hospital disaster preparedness amongst the Emergency Department personnel of an academic hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa.

A self-administered questionnaire was administered to the stratified and randomly selected sample size of sixty (60) personnel including nurses and doctors with a response rate of 85%. Findings from the study revealed that 74.5% of the personnel knew the hazards that placed the hospital at the risk of implementing its disaster plan, but less than 4% knew the detail of the procedures particularly when deciding to declare or end the disaster plan implementation. A third have had formal training in disaster management while 68.6% were willing to be trained to be more adequately prepared for a disaster operation.

There is insufficient knowledge of the disaster plan of the hospital selected therefore more education is required. A summary version of the plan may need to be written in order to facilitate memory of the procedures involved.

KEYWORDS*: **Disaster, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Operation Plan***

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADN: Assistant Director of Nursing

ATLS: Advanced Trauma Life Support

CEO: Chief Executive Officer

CMJAH: Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital

DMA: Disaster Management Act

ED: Emergency Department

HAZMAT: Hazardous Materials

HMIMMS: Hospital Major Incident Medical Management and Support

ICD: Intercostal Drain

ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross

ICU: Intensive Care Unit

IDNDR: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

IQR: Interquartile Range

MIMMS: Major Incident Medical Management and Support

NDMF: National Disaster Management Framework

SD: Standard Deviation

UNDMTP: United Nations Disaster Management Training Programme

UNDRO: United Nations Disaster Relief Organization

WHO: World Health Organization

UN: United Nations