



The Roles of Pharmacists in Disaster Health Management

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Disasters significantly impact the welfare of communities and the patient demographic of disaster-affected individuals is shifting from those with acute injuries to exacerbations of chronic diseases. Disaster health management needs to provide an interprofessional approach to addressing the health and welfare of those adversely affected in a disaster. Pharmacists are the most widely-distributed healthcare provider in the community and are often on the coal-face of providing continuity of medication care in disasters. However, to-date their roles in disasters have not been well understood or integrated into the broader disaster management team.



AIM:

To assemble an expert Delphi panel to discuss consensus on pharmacists' roles in disasters.



METHODS:

15 key opinion leaders from

- disaster management organisations,
- health industry, and
- pharmacy organisations
- 3 rounds of surveys
- 46 roles provided from previous research & literature
- Consensus set at 80%



RESULTS:



Discussion:

These results highlighted the acceptance from the experts for pharmacists to undertake more roles in disaster management teams. This project has begun to define pharmacists' roles in disasters. This paves the way for policymakers to discuss what pharmacists' roles in disasters could be based on evidence and the acceptance of the wider disaster management and health communities. However, further research is required to translate these findings into current practice.

