**Module 3 - Case**

**SURGE CAPACITY AND THE ROLE OF HOSPITALS**

**Case Assignment**

Medical surge refers to the ability of a medical community to respond to the increased need of medical care following a disaster or emergency. This also includes the ability of health care organizations to respond to this need with minimal impact of care to others already within the health care system. Hospitals could easily be overwhelmed without proper preparation in a mass casualty event.

**Assignment**

You are newly hired in the Emergency Disaster Unit of a local hospital. You are following your supervisor who was alerted of mass casualities incoming due to a major explosion at an elementary school. A medical surge is imminent. Your supervisor is activating a system-wide alert and Level 1 Triage. She is asking you to take notes on (a) setting up the Level 1 Triage, (b) the staff involved, (c) identity of the Community Disaster Management Liaison, (d) law enforcement agencies involved (i.e., federal, state, local), (e) protocol on who speaks with the local press, and (f) who speaks to the parents of the children involved.

1. Explain the triage system and the different levels.
2. A terrorist cell took credit for the explosion, although it is not confirmed. What extra precautions, if any, should the hospital take? Which agencies would be involved?
3. Is the community emergency and disaster management team involved? If so, how?

Be sure to cite the background readings to support your suggestions. Failure to do so will impact your final grade.

**Assignment Expectations**

**Length:** This Case Assignment should be 4 - 6 pages, not counting the title page and references.

**References:** At least two references should be included from academic sources (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles). Required readings are included. Quoted material should not exceed 10% of the total paper (since the focus of these assignments is critical thinking). Use your own words and build on the ideas of others. When material is copied verbatim from external sources, it MUST be enclosed in quotes. The references should be cited within the text and listed at the end of the assignment in the References section (preferably in APA format).

**Organization:** Subheadings should be used to organize your paper according to question.

**Grammar and Spelling:** While no points are deducted for minor errors, assignments are expected to adhere to standard guidelines of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence syntax. Points may be deducted if grammar and spelling impact clarity.