

Hospital Burn Capability Sustainment

In 2006 the NCR hospitals were awarded a \$1,000,000 grant through UASI '05 to develop the capabilities needed to provide care to 34 burn patients for the initial 48 hours of care. The purpose of the project was to provide each of the 34 NCR hospitals with basic burn supplies, pharmaceuticals, equipment and training to better prepare for an incident of significance involving large numbers of burn patients.

This project was successfully completed in 2007. A summary of capabilities developed include:

- ✓ Training of more than 750 hospital clinicians in Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) – the national benchmark training course for teaching medical providers the skills needed to stabilize, manage and treat burn patients for the initial 24 hours of care.
- ✓ Acquisition of 34 basic burn treatment supply kits – which include burn dressings, sheets, I.V. starter sets and other consumable supplies.
- ✓ Acquisition of 34 basic burn equipment kits – including a ventilator and cardiac monitor / printer
- ✓ Acquisition of 34 basic burn pharmaceutical kits – including silvadene burn cream, morphine and other essential medications required for burn care management.

In developing project proposals for the FY2008 UASI program the NCR hospitals, through the Health & Medical Working Group, advocated for and helped draft an EMS focused burn project to ensure parity of capabilities between pre-hospital and hospital providers. This project was funded at approximately \$1.5M.

The need for these burn capabilities has not gone away. The NCR contains 1 operational burn center that contains approximately 8 staffed beds – which are normally 75%+ occupied. The capabilities developed through this project provide an emergency surge capacity for the region in the event that our single burn center is unable to manage the volume of burn patients.

Specific sustainment needs for this project include:

1. **Continued ABLS Training** – Fortunately, Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) certification is valid for 6 years. Unfortunately, random sampling of staff members trained with initial funding indicates approximately 1/3 of the staff originally trained no longer work or practice in the NCR. It will cost approximately \$125,000 for the entire NCR to retrain new employees to replenish this capability of trained personnel.
2. **Replacement of Expired Burn Supplies and Pharmaceuticals** – Fortunately, there has not been a major event in the NCR in the past 4 years involving significant numbers of burn patients. Unfortunately, because burn care is not typically performed at non-burn centers hospitals do not have ready stock of burn supplies to allow for rotation – these items simply must be replaced when expired. These include burn sheets, burn dressings, custom sterilized burn kits and silvadene cream. It will cost approximately \$150,000 to replace these expired, non-rotatable items.
3. **Preventive Maintenance of Equipment** – All bio-medical equipment, such as ventilators and cardiac monitors, must undergo preventative maintenance and replacement of specific parts – such as batteries for the ventilators. It will cost approximately \$25,000 for the NCR hospitals to have all of this equipment serviced and necessary parts, such as batteries, replaced.