

Medical Preparedness for Acts of Water Terrorism

An On-Line Readiness Guide

www.waterhealthconnection.org



Practicing healthcare providers are likely to be the first to observe unusual illness patterns resulting from intentional contamination of water and must understand their critical role as “front-line responders” in detecting water-related disease resulting from biological, chemical or radiological terrorism. The primary purpose of **Physician Preparedness for Acts of Water Terrorism: An On-Line Readiness Guide** is to provide healthcare practitioners with streamlined access to resources that will help guide them through the recognition, management, and prevention of water-related disease resulting from intentional acts of water terrorism.

The physician on-line readiness guide was developed in order to provide access to **clinically relevant and updated information** in a format that offers easy access to practicing healthcare providers in a clinical setting. The on-line readiness guide provides the following **educational components** to healthcare practitioners and public health specialists faced with evaluating and managing of water-related disease resulting from terrorist activity:

- Review of the threat of water terrorism in the US including water as a vehicle for transmission of biological, chemical, and radiologic agents from either direct or indirect environmental contamination.
- Completion of accurate exposure histories and assessment of multiple exposure pathways and contaminant sources as part of a clinical evaluation of terrorism-related waterborne disease.
- Clinical resources addressing the accurate diagnosis, appropriate medical management, recommended laboratory evaluation, and prevention guidelines for biological, chemical, and radiologic compounds that may be waterborne agents.
- Specific precautionary guidelines for susceptible populations at increased risk for morbidity and mortality resulting from intentional chemical, biological, and radiologic contamination of water supplies.
- Use of epidemiologic clues and syndromic surveillance techniques to detect waterborne terrorism.
- Case reporting mechanisms and surveillance requirements for notification of suspected outbreaks or disease clusters resulting from a water contamination event.
- Effective risk communication and public education strategies for discussing health risks associated with intentional water contamination.

Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit toward AMA Physician’s Recognition Award (maximum of 22.5 CME credits) sponsored by the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) is available at this website. **For more information contact American College of Preventive Medicine at www.acpm.org.**

PHYSICIAN PREPAREDNESS FOR ACTS OF WATER TERRORISM

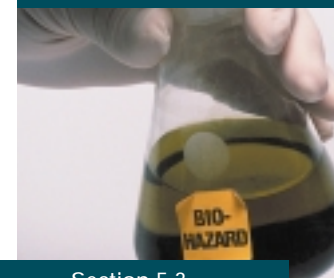
Physician On-Line Readiness Guide

www.WaterHealthConnection.org/bt

Author: Patricia L. Meinhardt, MD, MPH, MA

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- Section 2: Understanding the Threat of Water Terrorism
- Section 3: Chemical, Biological and Radiologic (CBR) Agent Dispersal and Multiple Exposure Pathways
- Section 4: Detection and Diagnosis of Waterborne Terrorism
- Section 5: Evaluation and Management of Disease Resulting from CBR Agents
 - Section 5.1: Clinical approach and medical management of BIOLOGICAL AGENTS
 - Section 5.2: Clinical approach and medical management of BIOLOGICAL TOXINS
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- Section 6: Clinician Role in Risk Communication and Community Readiness
- Section 7: Clinician On-Line Resources Guide and Targeted Search Engine Tools
- Section 8: Glossary of Disaster Preparedness Terms
- Section 9: CD-ROM Disaster Tool and PDA Application

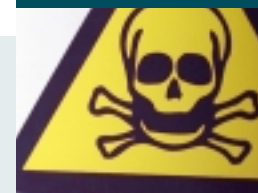
Section 5.1 Biological Agents



Section 5.2 Biological Toxins



Section 5.3 Chemical Agents



Section 5.4 Radiologic Agents



Recognizing Waterborne Disease and the Health Effects of Water Pollution

A Physician On-Line Reference Guide

www.waterhealthconnection.org

Recognizing Waterborne Disease and the Health Effects of Water Pollution

Patricia L. Meinhardt, MD, MPH, MA, Author

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Recognizing Waterborne Disease and the Health Effects of Water Pollution



Physician On-line Reference Guide
On-line Continuing Medical Education Credits (CME) - Max. 22 Credit Hours
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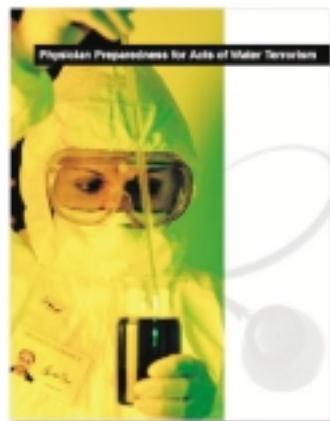
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Physician Preparedness for Acts of Water Terrorism



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Contamination of water reserves by either chemical agents or infectious pathogens may affect the health of millions of residents in the United States. Water consumers are frequently unaware of the potential health risks associated with exposure to waterborne contaminants and often consult practicing physicians who are unfamiliar with water pollution issues and their subsequent impact on human health. Misdiagnosis and underdiagnosis of waterborne disease by the medical community may result in significant morbidity and mortality, particularly in vulnerable populations at increased risk of disease as a result of exposure to waterborne pathogens and chemical contaminants.

A new medical website has been launched to assist healthcare providers and public health personnel recognize and manage waterborne disease and the health effects of water pollution resulting from either natural OR intentional contamination of water. A free web based resource, **Recognizing Waterborne Disease and the Health Effects of Water Pollution: A Physician On-Line Reference Guide** is currently available at www.WaterHealthConnection.org. Unique features of this medical website include:

- "24/7" availability with free access to more than 800 web pages of comprehensive information
- Clinically relevant information detailing the diagnosis and management of waterborne disease from microbial and/or chemical contamination
- Repository of physician anti-terrorism preparedness and readiness resources including new section — **Physician Preparedness for Acts of Water Terrorism**
- Special risk communication and patient risk evaluation guidelines for both healthy and susceptible populations regarding waterborne disease
- "Ease of use" technology tools and website support for busy physician users
- Targeted search engines providing quick and easy access to more than 200 websites covering a diverse array of waterborne disease and water contamination issues
- Peer-reviewed content by leading medical, public health, and military experts from medical academia and public health agencies including CDC, ATSDR, HHS and EPA

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RECOGNIZING WATERBORNE DISEASE AND THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF WATER POLLUTION:

Physician On-Line Reference Guide

www.WaterHealthConnection.org

Author: Patricia L. Meinhardt, MD, MPH, MA

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- Chapter 3: Introduction to the Problem of Waterborne Disease
- Chapter 4: Understanding Water Pollution and Water Protection
- Chapter 5: Multiple Environmental Contaminant Sources and Exposure Pathways
- Chapter 6: Evaluation and Management of Disease Resulting from Waterborne Pathogens
- Chapter 7: Evaluation and Management of Waterborne Disease Resulting from Chemical Contaminants
- Chapter 8: Evaluation and Management of Water-Related Disease in Susceptible Populations
- Chapter 9: Health Risk Communication and Patient Risk Evaluation for Waterborne Contaminant Exposure and Water-Related Disease
- Chapter 10: Clinician Internet Resource Guide and Search Engine

TARGETED SEARCH BY CATEGORY:

- Waterborne Pathogens
- Chemical Contaminants
- Susceptible Populations
- Risk Communication
- Water Disaster and Water Contamination Resources

TARGETED SEARCH BY SUSCEPTIBLE POPULATION SUBCATEGORY:

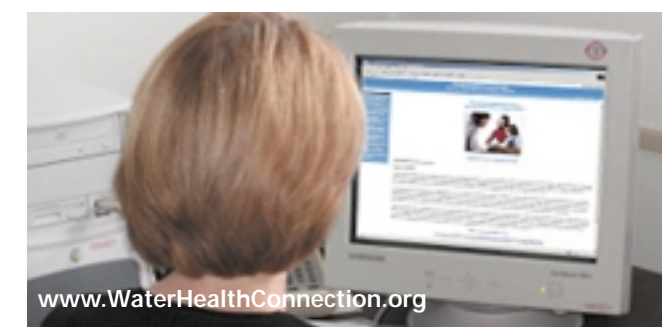
- Immunocompromised/ Immunosuppressed Population
- Pediatric Population
- Pregnant Women

Chapter 11: Water-Related Glossary

"Waterborne disease is a critical public health, clinical, and terrorism preparedness issue. Our physicians must be prepared."

Bob Harmon, MD, MPH, FACPM

Former President, American College of Preventive Medicine



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