

## Investigation of the degree of familiarization among Nurses in management of mass disasters

Angeliki Banousi

A Banousi<sup>1,2</sup>, E Karamagioli<sup>2,3</sup>, E Pikoulis<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>General Hospital of Athens, KAT, Athens, Greece

<sup>2</sup>International Medicine/Health Crisis Management, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

<sup>3</sup>National School of Public Administration, Athens, Greece

Contact: abanousi@yahoo.gr

### Background:

The number of reported emergency incidents and mass casualty incidents continue to rise worldwide. Nurses comprise a significant percent of national health system. As a result, nurses of all specialties should be able to respond effectively in a potential emergency incident or even disaster. Validated questionnaires measuring nurses' familiarity regarding emergency preparedness have a significant role in revealing the weaknesses that nurses might have when disaster occurs. The adapted version of Emergency Preparedness Information Questionnaire (AEPIQ) is a valid and reliable tool, capable of assessing knowledge and familiarity with aspects of emergency preparedness among nursing staff.

### Methods:

To assess the knowledge and behavioral intention of nurses, a descriptive study was conducted on a random sample of 117 nurses of two hospitals in Athens who are running the Department of Emergencies, the Intensive Care Units (ICU) Surgery and Anesthesiology Department. The purpose of this study will be to investigate the degree of familiarization of nursing staff in emergency situations, triage and its applications in situations of mass disasters, as well as the recording of nursing opinions regarding education and availability for their own participation in rescue teams.

### Results:

The average index of Nurses knowledge on subjects' incident command system ' was 33.12% in 'Triage' 40.68%,

'Communication and connectivity' 34.43%, 'Psychological issues and special populations' 34.19%, 'Isolation, Decontamination and Quarantine' 34.02%, 'Epidemiology and clinical decision making' 37.32%, 'Reporting and accessing critical resources' 30.56% and 'Biological agents' 32.19%.

#### **Conclusions:**

From the above it is obvious that nurses have insufficient familiarity with the procedures specified in sub-groups.

Keywords: Preparedness, Mass casualty incident, Questionnaire, Familiarity, Assessment, Education

#### **Key messages:**

- Investigating preparedness of nursing staff and their degree of familiarity of mass disasters is innovative for Greek data and it will provide statistically significant results for the health area.
- In order to set up an integrated training program for emergencies, it is necessary to detect any gaps in the knowledge and skills of nursing staff.