

The Adapted Standards of Care Committee, appointed by the Oklahoma Catastrophic Health Emergency Planning Task Force, has produced draft guidelines with which to address patient care during periods of constrained resources in healthcare facilities.

The purpose of the draft guidelines is to provide a clinical framework for medical systems so that they may plan and prepare for, and respond to emergencies which present resource constrained environments. The overarching goal is to achieve the most advantageous allocation of patient care during all possible phases of a public health emergency. The document is intended to be part of each healthcare facility's adaptable multi-tiered emergency response plan. Adaptation of this document will empower clinicians at the point of care during emergencies and allow for more effective decision making.

Basic principles of the Adapted Standards of Care Guidelines:

Plan Ahead – if possible

Stockpile – as much as is practical

Communicate – with other providers and with government agencies

Limit – patient care to necessary procedures and surgeries

Adapt – unused equipment and supplies when possible

Substitute – easily stockpiled supplies and medication when possible

Conserve – reexamine thresholds for procedures and medications

Reuse – consider reuse of equipment after appropriate cleaning and disinfection

Re-allocate – as a last resort consider re-allocation of resources to patients who will most benefit