

# Ethical Principles during Pandemics

Jeff Kaufhold, MD FACP

Oct 2008

# Value Statements

- Respect for persons
- Truth telling, transparency, and openness.
- Community good as primary goal
- Best estimates of patient survival with low morbidity.
- Stewardship of scarce resources
- Decision making authority shifts from family to Incident commander or designee.
- Fairness.

# Procedural Considerations

- Community Health care response
  - Community clinics and resource pooling.
  - Stay home.
  - Stock up on provisions.
- Declaration of emergency status of operations
- Decision Making authority shift.
- Reassessment of procedures and implementation guidelines

# Procedural Considerations

- Admitting patients to facilities
- Maximize capacity. Withdrawal for certain patients to free up ICU beds.
- Fairness in Triage
- Change of presumption of need based, first come first served service.
- Pain and palliative care to those not admitted.
- Family and public access to facility likely to be restricted.

# Procedural Considerations

- Privacy and confidentiality try to continue but will need reporting of data to central database to tailor response.
- Outpt and home health care – will it continue?
- Preventive treatment of essential staff.
- Employed and professional staff obligation to provide treatment.
- Facility obligation to provide safe environment.

# Procedural Considerations

- Staff allocation and roles during emergency may change based on demand. (vents on wards once ICU full)
- Facility support for staff after wards. (support for PTSD, legal support of staff that followed directives.
- Declaration of End of Emergency. Expect at least 8 weeks of disruption.