

Oregon Public Health Division, DHS
Draft Charter
Medical Advisory Group

The purpose of the MAG is to develop guidelines that can be applied to difficult situations; also to develop the type of shared discussion and trust relationship so that the group, or sub-group, could provide advisory review during an emergency (Impending Public Health Crisis). The MAG will be asked to develop guidelines and principles for a broad range of issues related to medical decisions and use of medical resources in emergencies, including altered standards of care and allocation of scarce resources.

The healthcare system is routinely under-resourced, with the response depending on the demands on the system:

- a. Daily/“normal” level of demand: “Rationing” of care occurs through increased waiting periods for appointments and through financial barriers (increased premiums, self pay, etc.)
- b. Increased levels of demand (extra surge): People work harder and longer. Use of “usual” staff (or staffing services) for temporary increase in workload.
- c. Surge that severely challenges healthcare delivery: This type of event will potentially overwhelm healthcare delivery and require choices to be made, e.g. who will receive ventilators, vaccine, antibiotics, all of which may be in limited supply.

We cannot anticipate the exact scenario for the “severe” surge outlined above but we can develop a framework that includes both a set of principles on use of scarce resources (e.g. ventilators) and have a well-informed advisory group to make recommendations to the State Public Health Director and Governor if the need arises. This group would not be mandating specific treatment but would provide credible guidance to the medical community through the State Public Health Director/Governor that would hopefully forestall or prevent inconsistent decisions on use of scarce resources by any individual provider or region.

Proposed mission statement: Develop a framework that includes both a set of principles on use of scarce resources (e.g. ventilators) and have a well-informed advisory group to make recommendations to the State Public Health Director and Governor if the need arise.