

**Disaster Triage Exercise**  
*Appoint one person to be leader and scribe*

**Setting:** You work in the United States in a small community hospital that has six intensive care unit (ICU) on beds with ventilators and 75 medical beds.

**Scenario:** A pandemic of H5N1 influenza began in southeast Asia and has come to your city. You are the triage officer and have implemented your pandemic plan, including maximizing your surge capacity.

Four patients are already in the ICU on ventilators, leaving 2 ventilators available. There are an additional 4 patients in the ER/triage area who require ICU on ventilator support. BiPap (a mask ventilation system) is not available. You have checked around and cannot locate additional ventilators. You must triage which 2 new patients will get a ventilator and which 2 will not.

**Patient 1:** an active 27-year old married, mother of 2, presents with H5N1. Triage findings: Bag mask ventilation, unresponsive, occasional spontaneous movements, and weak radial pulse with capillary refill > 2 secs

**Patient 2:** an active 60-year old man in liver failure on the transplant list, presents with H5N1 influenza. Liver failure is due to chronic excessive alcohol consumptions, and the patient has a history of domestic abuse. Triage findings: Bag mask ventilation, decreased level of consciousness (LOC), radial pulse with capillary refill = 2 secs

**Patient 3:** a 54-year old police officer who was shot in the chest while guarding a pharmacy that held a stockpile of oseltamivir (an antiviral for H5N1). Triage findings: intubated and being manually ventilated, unresponsive, weak radial pulse with capillary refill > 2

**Patient 4:** a 42-year old prison inmate with a subarachnoid hemorrhage from a fight; In prison for sexual misconduct with a minor; surgical services are available. Triage findings: intubated and being manually ventilated, decreased level of consciousness, radial pulse with capillary refill < 2

**Questions:**

a. **For which patients will you provide ventilator support?**

b. **What is your rationale?**

c. **What are the values that are guiding your decisions?**