



Disaster Medical Coordination Center (DMCC)

OVERVIEW

What is a DMCC?

Disaster Medical Coordination Centers are designated hospitals where trained medical personnel gather to help coordinate patient movement during an incident that may overwhelm the healthcare community. DMCCs are responsible for supporting EMS and the healthcare community by identifying available beds and placing patients at the most appropriate facility, based on their injuries or illness, as quickly as possible.

Where is a DMCC located?

A DMCC is located in or near the emergency department of certain hospitals.

Hospitals Designated as Regional DMCC in Western Washington:

North District	Providence Everett Medical Center (Everett)
Central District	Harborview Medical Center (Seattle) Good Samaritan Hospital (Puyallup)
Northwest District	Harrison Medical Center, CHI Franciscan (Bremerton)
West District	Providence St. Peter Hospital (Olympia)

How do DMCCs operate?

A DMCC is activated following an incident that may overwhelm the healthcare system such as a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) or hospital evacuation. An activation request typically comes from Fire/EMS at the scene. A DMCC is operated by trained emergency department staff that may consist of doctors, nurses, technicians, administrative personnel and/or EMS partners.

Using various communication tools (800MHz radios, HEAR, Med-8, landlines, cell phones, computers and sometimes even satellite phones), DMCCs are tasked with:

1. Gathering information from the field
2. Initial notification to area hospitals; requesting bed availability and ability to receive patients
3. Coordinate or assist with patient placement with hospitals, Fire/EMS and other DMCCs

When gathering information from the field, DMCCs seek five key points of information:

1. Location of incident
2. Mechanism of injury
3. Approximate number of patients (adults & pediatrics)
4. Types of injuries
5. Any contamination or exposure concerns

What a DMCC does NOT do is provide any physical resources to transport patients. A DMCC only coordinates patient placement with transportation providers.



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Whom does the DMCC notify?

For large events (> 10 patients), a DMCC will notify its partners to assist with other support needs such as family reunification, and/or any resource requests. Partners include: other healthcare facilities, the Northwest Healthcare Response Network, Department of Health, local and/or county public health, city and/or county emergency management. Incidents that occur near county lines require notification to neighboring regional DMCCs to potentially assist with patient placement. Patient information provided to hospitals from a DMCC or other partners such as Fire/EMS during an incident may be very limited. Patients may arrive at receiving facilities with little to no notice or report.

DMCCs in Western Washington:

