

# Pharmaceutical support role of Hospital Pharmacy Department in Central Italy earthquake

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## BACKGROUND

An earthquake, measuring 6.2 on the moment magnitude scale, hit Central Italy on 24 August 2016 at 3.36 am. Its epicentre was close to Accumoli, in the central Apennines. The intra-hospital emergency plan for massive inflow of injured patients has been activated and at least 365 wounded had to be treated, mainly in Ascoli Piceno and less in Rieti, while people with less serious injuries were treated in place.



## PURPOSE

The aim of this study consists to determinate the disaster pharmaceutical response level and its accuracy. The rationality of drug use needs to be discussed to find whether it had been functional. Rational use of drugs requires that patients receive medications appropriate to their clinical needs, in doses that meet their own individual requirements (WHO, May 2010).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study conducted analyzed Pharmacy's role and its work shifts, including the main types of drugs used in the Hospital, which is the nearest to the epicenter of the earthquake. This was based on the analysis of informatic records of drugs transfer during the first week after earthquake. Furthermore, through the management software, the rapidity of emergency drug purchase and delivery has been determined.



## RESULTS

Ascoli Piceno's Pharmaceutical Department staff had been working at 6 am in order to satisfy emergency units needs, during a continuously 60 hours work shift. For analyze urgent needs several inspections in earthquake place had been effectuated by Pharmacists. They had supported every medical unit in marchigian territory that had requested pharmaceutical care, suggesting and supplying drugs as **metronidazole, levofloxacin and clindamycin**, that had been the most frequently asked antibiotics. Other used drugs included **volume expanders, tranexamic acid, furosemide, dexamethasone, atropine, adrenaline, dopamine, tetanus antitoxin, lidocaine and nitroglicerine**. These data suggest that the use of drugs was consistent with the recommendation by WHO. Pharmacy quickly had made several emergency purchases, informing immediately the supply companies. The materials had arrived in 24 hours from the orders.



- Volume expanders
- Intravenous solutions
- Tetanus antitoxin
- Reanimation medical devices



## CONCLUSION

With no doubt the pharmacists had played an important role, also in promoting rational drug use. They can play an important role in supply and rational use of drugs in an earthquake medical response, also by providing drug information.

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