

Maggie Casey  
Lakeview College of Nursing  
Professor Armstrong  
4/15/2025

#### Triage Day Reflection

The purpose of triage day is to prepare senior nursing students to appropriately respond to an emergency situation. On Lakeview's triage day, Friday April 11th, students responded to a simulated hurricane event based on real life events that occurred at Memorial Medical Center. At Memorial Medical Center in 2005 during hurricane Katrina, a series of unfortunate events unfolded leading the hospital staff to face ethical dilemmas and come to timely decisions. Some of the unfortunate events included power outages, flooding, lack of procedural planning, and lack of resources, such as clean water. These situations were all simulated by Lakeview College of Nursing this triage day.

This simulated emergency experience was very helpful as a nursing student. I was able to apply my knowledge and skills to a real-life situation as well as practice critical thinking and nursing judgment. As a participant in this simulation, I felt the situations I was tasked with resolving were of appropriate difficulty for my knowledge and skill level. For example, a patient needed immediate medication administration. This task was slightly challenging to complete within the amount of time allotted but was achievable for senior level nursing students. As a group, we triaged the patients into black, red, yellow, and green categories to determine the severity and survivability of their injuries. Patients with a black tag were unlikely to survive. Patients with a red tag were likely to survive if given medical intervention quickly. Yellow tagged patients were given to patients who were likely to survive if given medical treatment and could wait for the intervention. Patients were tagged green if their injuries were not severe and can be tended after red and yellow patients. This process is a useful organization tool for emergency responders and health care staff to utilize to determine who needs help first. We were then given prompts such as "A rescue boat is here; they will take four adult patients who are able to walk on their own and they are leaving in five minutes". To respond, we had to quickly work

Maggie Casey  
Lakeview College of Nursing  
Professor Armstrong  
4/15/2025

#### Triage Day Reflection

together to determine which patient fit their criteria. By continually completing steps such as that, we were able to evacuate most of the patients and all of the hospital staff.

An ethical dilemma faced in this simulation was that the last rescue helicopter could save eight people, and there were nine people left in the hospital, including staff and patients. We determined that the patient tagged black would unfortunately be staying behind. This is a difficult decision to make, however it was made due to the status that the patient was likely to pass away whether they stayed or went in the rescue helicopter compared to the other eight healthy people. In my opinion, the exercise was well put together and a valuable learning experience. I exercised timely decision making, collaboration, and responded to ethical dilemmas.