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Triage Day

Reflections

This nursing student participated in Triage Day on 4/11/25 at Lakeview College of Nursing in Danville, Ill. This activity was performed for nursing students to learn and get experienced in the case they have to deal with situations in which they are faced with a large disaster and many injured people at the same time. This situation was created based on a real event, Hurricane Katrina, which occurred in 2005 in the Southern states of the US. At that time, hundreds of people died, mostly from floods but also from other injuries. During this activity, nursing students were divided into two groups of nine participants. The nursing students were to act like nurses who needed to evacuate patients from the hospital surrounded by rising water and flood. Each group had 36 patients who needed to be evacuated from the building.

Many patients had health problems and needed specific conditions before nursing students could evacuate them. Nursing students had to study each patient's medical problems and use that to triage patients. The triage is a process used when many injured people suddenly need medical attention. In that case, medical professionals must determine in which order they will get

treated. In this situation, there were only patients from the hospital, but they needed help to stay alive. The hospital lost power due to weather, and many medical instruments could not function. Some patients needed pain medication. The evacuation was slow and complicated. Many requirements were to be provided before the patients could be put in helicopters or boats and evacuated to other medical centers.

This activity was very complex, but it was perfect to understand what is happening in a disaster like this one. Initially, the students were confused, but soon, they started to divide patients into groups according to the urgency of their problems. There were four groups of patients: red, yellow, green, and black. The red group was the most urgent case. Yellow group cases were urgent but could wait 15-30 minutes to be helped. The green group of patients was list ill, and they could be delayed. The black group were dead or dying patients, and nothing could be done for them. This way of prioritizing helps achieve the best survival in a similar situation.