Japan Disaster Relief Medical Mission Operating System - Key Achievement and Lessons Learned

Tatsuhiko Kubo MD, PhD.
Japan Disaster Relief, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo, Japan

Background/Introduction: In 2015, the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Medical Team developed the JDR Medical Mission Operating System (MOS), a comprehensive EMT Information Communication Tool (ICT). This system was utilized during the 2019 Mozambique Cyclone and the 2023 Türkiye Earthquake.
Objectives: To report key achievements and lessons learned from implementing the JDR-MOS.
Method/Description: The review involved analyzing training materials and mission reports.
Results/Outcomes: The MOS implementation significantly enhanced reporting capabilities to the EMTCC and JDR headquarters in Tokyo. The MOS contributed to the development of Japan's national EMT standard reporting template J-SPEED, and the WHO EMT Minimum Data Set (MDS). Challenges included training team members who work in hospitals all over Japan, also securing resources for periodic system updates. Some team members preferred paper-based operations, believing they saved time and potentially allowed for more patients to be treated. Paper template also were regarded to facilitate quick information sharing compared to digital screens.
Conclusion: The introduction of ICT through the MOS substantially improved reporting capabilities but faced technical challenges in training, maintenance, and information sharing compared to paper-based systems. The benefits of ICT can be maximized through collaborative development and implementation of EMT ICT standards. This can be applied either nationally and internationally. Based on these achievements and lessons learned, JDR is now upgrading MOS to a next-generation strategic ICT system.

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Innovative Online Toolbox for AUSMAT and EMTs: Enhancing Information Sharing and Operational Transparency

Abigail Trewin MPH, BSHc(para), Amiel Grigg, Rhiannon Wake BSN, Pookie Vajrathorn BSN, Michelle Fielding BSN
National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia

Background/Introduction: Addressing the evolving demands of global emergency medical operations necessitates tools that enhance information sharing, learning, and operational transparency among Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs). AUSMAT (Australian Medical Assistance Teams) identified a critical gap in accessible, comprehensive resources to support these needs across various EMT deployments worldwide.
Objectives: The primary objective was to support AUSMAT team members in remaining current and up-to-date while facilitating efficient information sharing. This toolbox, accessible to any user, integrates information in a collaborative platform.
Method/Description: An innovative online toolbox was developed through collaboration with experienced AUSMAT personnel. This toolbox, accessible to any user, integrates information in a collaborative platform. It aims to demonstrate EMT principles by providing AUSMAT's operating documents, technical information on logistics (including technical video's), plans, and resources. Additionally, the toolbox incorporates the lessons AUSMAT has identified and implemented and content on specialist skill areas.
Results/Outcomes: Initial evaluations through Team Member training demonstrate that the toolbox significantly enhances team knowledge, transfer of critical information, and operational transparency. It offers a unique resource for teams regionally entering the EMT initiative or strengthening current practices or technical capability.
Conclusion: The pilot of the AUSMAT Toolbox proposes that online sharing of classification evidence supports greater Team Member understanding and offers a unique opportunity to develop a community of practice globally, utilizing a broader platform that all teams can contribute to.

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Designing an EMT Cache for Extreme Cold Weather in Mongolia

Khongor Dejidgunchin[1], Bund-Ochir Khishigsaikhan[2], Khosbayar Battugs[3], Odkhuu Togmid[4], Sean Casey[5], Jan-Erik Larsen[5], Misheel Enkhdalai[5], Gerelmaa Danzan[6], Nomin-Erdene Tsogtgerel[6], Dulamragchaa Buyanbaatar[6]
1. National Emergency Management Agency, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
2. Ministry of Health, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
3. First Central Hospital, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
4. Ministry of Defense, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
5. WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines
6. World Health Organization Representative Office for Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Background/Introduction: Emergency Medical Team (EMT) cache is the collection of items and equipment that enable an EMT to remain operational and self-sufficient during deployment. Providing quality care to affected populations and ensuring that WHO standards are upheld is of primary concern. Cache design needs to be specific to context. With extreme winter conditions in Mongolia with temperatures below -30°C from November to February, special attention had to be taken into consideration when designing the EMT cache.
Objectives: Design cache content for EMT type 1 fixed to respond to disasters fit for extreme cold weather conditions. Mongolia regularly experiences these events, an extreme cold-season disaster where heavy snow and ice cover lead to reduced accessibility of health services, and high livestock mortality.
Method/Description: Specialized items including insulated tents, sleeping bags, heated flooring, air heaters, insulated water