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| Heat Health Preparedness Guidance | | |
| Self-assessment checklist for hospitals – November 2022 | | |
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| **Considerations for your extreme heat and heatwave plan** | **Y/N** |
| Does your hospital have an extreme heat plan? |  |
| Are relevant staff aware of your plan, how to access it and what it contains? |  |
| Has your plan been reviewed since the last summer season? Date of last review: |  |
| Is it integrated with your hospital’s external emergency and disaster response plan? |  |
| Is there an emergency department/urgent care centre sub-plan? |  |
| Is there a clear escalation protocol to notify executive team members of extreme heat/heatwaves, disruptions to service delivery and criteria to request activation of a Code Brown response? |  |
| Does your business continuity plan link to your extreme heat plan? |  |
| Does your heat plan specify how you will monitor the forecast for extreme heat or heatwave conditions? (i.e., Bureau of Meteorology heatwave warnings, VIC Emergency platform or Department of Health heat health warnings) |  |
| Does your extreme heat plan specify actions for a forecast single day of extreme heat? |  |
| Does your extreme heat plan specify actions for a forecast multi-day heatwave? |  |
| **Considerations for patient care in your extreme heat plan** | **Y/N** |
| Does it address increasing inpatient bed capacity during extreme heat and heatwave conditions? |  |
| Do discharge planning considerations for at-risk patients include weather conditions such as extreme heat and heatwave? (e.g., consider providing taxi vouchers, discharging patients during cooler times of the day) |  |
| Does it address switching outpatient appointments to telehealth where possible? |  |
| Does it consider advising on medication review for at-risk patients? |  |
| **Considerations for staff in your extreme heat plan** | **Y/N** |
| Does it cover advice for all staff to keep themselves safe (e.g., hydration, regular breaks, travel to and from work?) |  |
| Are staff trained to recognise at-risk patients and the management of heat-related illness? |  |
| Does it have arrangements to consider increasing staffing during forecast extreme heat or heatwaves, and on the days that follow? |  |
| **Considerations for power outages in your extreme heat plan** | **Y/N** |
| Do you have a plan/s for an alternate power supply in the event of a power outage? |  |
| Do you have a plan/s for failure of air-conditioning? |  |
| **Additional considerations for emergency department/urgent care centre subplans** | **Y/N** |
| Does the subplan consider increasing capacity to treat emergency patients (e.g., by using other areas such as outpatient clinics)? |  |
| Does it consider access to hydration and cooling (e.g., a water station, fans, air-conditioning) for patients and visitors, including in the waiting room and in ambulance ramping areas? |  |
| Does it cover the health and safety of community partners (e.g., Ambulance Victoria and police)? |  |

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