Abstract

Katrina taught medical providers a valuable lesson in diabetes management; preparation is essential, not just for the short term, during the disaster, but for the long term, in the aftermath of the devastation. Primary provider instruction on the importance of maintaining an adequate supply of and storage strategies for medications in addition to an emergency supply of diabetic safe foods and water is essential to the individual emergency plan and key in diabetes patient education plans to reduce the vulnerable population risk in the aftermath of a disaster. The Diabetes Disaster Plan will outline a project plan to reduce vulnerability of patients with diabetes in disaster situations by using Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] publications and standards to educate patients with diabetes on how to prepare for emergency situations. The plan will outline a primary practice change including disaster training in at risk population with diabetes in the rural clinic, a patient centered class on diabetes specific disaster kit preparation and inclusion of the primary care site in preparation activities.