

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
POLICY

Subject: Crisis Standards of Care

Document Number: PS-168-0

Attachment(s): SD Crisis Standards of Care

Effective Date: June 3, 2022

Revision Date(s):

POLICY STATEMENT

The South Dakota Pandemic Crisis Standards of Care and ICU Triage Guidelines were originally developed in 2009 by Life Circle SD (formerly the Sioux Falls Bioethics Network) and fellow stakeholder organizations in response to H1N1. The guidelines were ultimately adopted by the health systems, but never activated.

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Life Circle SD suggested a study of the 2009 plan to ensure compliance with the Office of Civil Rights guidelines and to re-evaluate the clinical algorithm to provide ethically sound, clinically objective, practical, non-discriminatory, and transparent assessment and triage standards for allocation of limited resources in the event of a mass critical care situation during which the demand for hospital and critical care services exceeds capacity.

As a member of Life Circle SD, the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) participated in the review process with members from the health systems, the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations (SDAHO), the South Dakota Department of Health (SDDOH), and other key stakeholders to update the 2009 plan as hospital capacity in 2021 was reaching a crisis level.

The updated plan, modeled after the West Texas plan, was approved by the workgroups in October 2021 with formal endorsement by SDSMA, SDAHO, and SDDOH in November 2021.

The overall goal of the South Dakota Crisis Standards of Care plan is to save as many lives as possible and reduce the physician burden of triage by providing an algorithm for decision-making based on Modified Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (MSOFA) scoring and patient goals. The purpose of adopting the plan statewide is to ensure consistency and reduce risk when determining the allocation of scarce resources. The plan outlines the requirement to reassess patients daily to determine continued priority for hospitalization.

Hospitals should use these standards in concert with their local policies, procedures and guidelines with consideration and application by a clinical triage committee and/or officer. Under a declared state of emergency, the governor maintains the authority to supersede healthcare regulations or statutes that may come into conflict with these standards.

The SDSMA supports our members and other health care providers by advocating for healthy communities and access to healthcare services. The South Dakota Crisis Standards of Care Plan provides a framework for decision-making when a health emergency has the potential to overwhelm available

resources. Hospitals, in conjunction with their respective medical staff will use these Standards to allocate scarce resources in a manner that respects the human dignity and wishes of each patient and saves as many lives as possible.

The SDSMA endorses the 2022 South Dakota Crisis Standards of Care Plan which is included as an attachment to this policy, and will help educate members in collaboration with the SDDOH and others.

AUTHORITY

South Dakota State Medical Association Policy Council, 6/3/2022; South Dakota State Medical Association Board of Directors, 6/3/2022.