

## District of Columbia Hospital Association Members

Children's National  
Medical Center

District of Columbia  
General Hospital

George Washington  
University Hospital

Georgetown University  
Medical Center

Greater Southeast  
Community Hospital

Hadley Memorial Hospital

Howard University  
Hospital

National Rehabilitation  
Hospital

Providence Hospital

Psychiatric Institute of  
Washington, DC

Riverside Psychiatric  
Hospital and  
Residential Center

Saint Elizabeths Hospital-  
Commission on Mental  
Health Services

Sibley Memorial Hospital

Veterans Affairs Medical  
Center

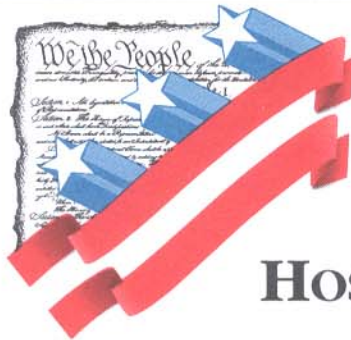
Walter Reed Army  
Medical Center

Washington Hospital  
Center

## Affiliate Members

Malcolm Grow Medical  
Center, Andrews Air Force  
Base

National Naval Medical  
Center, Bethesda



## NATIONAL CRISIS HITS WASHINGTON, D.C. – HOSPITALS WERE PREPARED

DCHA member hospitals were on high alert throughout September 11 and 12, 2001, in anticipation of receiving victims from the tragic attack on the Pentagon. Emergency department staff were prepared to take as many patients as necessary to assist in the rescue effort.

Hospital medical directors reported to DCHA that they had been able to move many patients to lower levels of care in order to make room for potential emergency patients. However, the number of casualties needing hospitalization or emergency care turned out to be relatively low.

DCHA President Robert Malson coordinated hospital questions and concerns with District of Columbia officials, who had set up at the Reeves Center as the command post for emergency activities.

Area hospitals received over 100 patients from the Pentagon, who were seen in Virginia and D.C. Virginia Hospital Center-Arlington received the most patients, with 44, Inova Alexandria Hospital treated 23 patients. District hospitals received 35 patients. Washington Hospital Center received the most patients in the District; most were admitted to the burn unit. President George W. Bush visited the patients and their families at Washington Hospital Center.

District hospitals have been widely praised for the state-of-the-art radio communications system, called H-MARS (Hospital Mutual Aid Radio System), which connects the District hospitals to each other and to the D.C. Emergency Management Agency and D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services. During the September 11th disaster when the telephone systems - both land lines and cellular - were over-taxed, the radio system was able to provide information about available beds in each D.C. hospital. Children's National Medical Center serves as the clearinghouse for the H-MARS network.

Emergency and military personnel from Arlington County, the District of Columbia, Fairfax County, and neighboring jurisdictions worked day and night at the Pentagon to search for survivors, and later to recover the dead. In New York, recovery efforts continued, where firefighters and other rescue workers have come from several states and Canada to assist with digging through the rubble that was the World Trade Center. Approximately 200 staff members from DCHA Associate Member Marsh Inc., whose New York offices were in the World Trade Center, are among the missing. DCHA extends its prayers and support for all those affected by the horrible events of September 11.