

Mount Carmel
Community Outreach:
Street Medicine Program
Working with Unsheltered Seniors

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Objectives

► To meet patient's acute medical need

► To connect patient with appropriate and consistent medical care

► To care for the whole person: mental health, drug treatment, food resources, address safety, housing, help with IDs and birth certificates, etc.



Mobile Coach

Taking Medicine to People



Goals of Street Medicine (In camps)

- ▶ To find those living in places not meant for human habitation
- ▶ To address acute and chronic conditions
- ▶ To ensure safety
- ▶ To help with immediate needs: clothing, food, shelter, etc.
- ▶ To build relationships
- ▶ To establish rapport and eventually engage people in services they need and will accept



Older Patients experiencing homelessness:

Common Experiences:

- Exhausted family resources/relationships
- Find the experience (and the lack of privacy and dignity that comes with it) especially traumatizing (especially the shelter experience)
- Lack support system







Abandoned Buildings



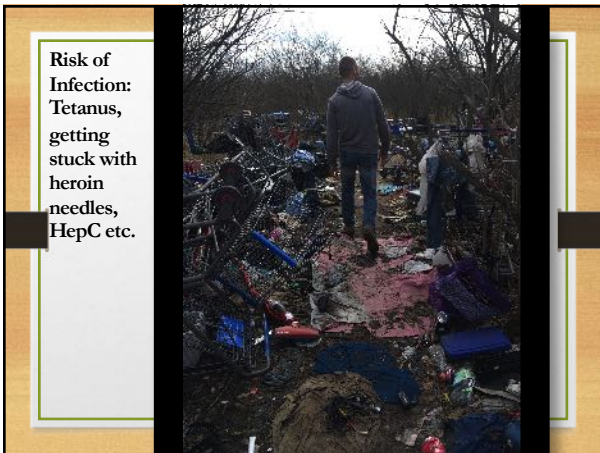
Actually outside

Also in cars (running or not), steps of buildings, basically anywhere that can provide some sort of safety

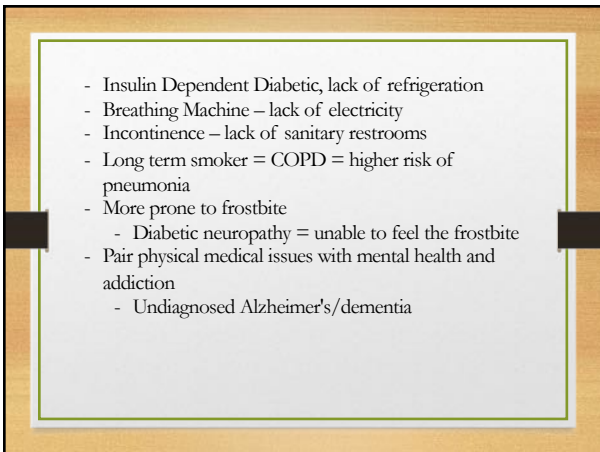
Medical Challenges in assisting this population

- Mobility Issues
- Keeping track of meds/appointments
 - Stolen medication
- Managing Several Chronic Conditions
 - Transportation to variety of specialties around the city (often in suburbs)
- Great need for medical respite
- Safe discharge when homeless?
 - When ADLs are not an issue, yet safety of living situation is not available






Risk of Infection:
Tetanus,
getting stuck with heroin needles, HepC etc.



- Insulin Dependent Diabetic, lack of refrigeration
- Breathing Machine – lack of electricity
- Incontinence – lack of sanitary restrooms
- Long term smoker = COPD = higher risk of pneumonia
- More prone to frostbite
 - Diabetic neuropathy = unable to feel the frostbite
- Pair physical medical issues with mental health and addiction
 - Undiagnosed Alzheimer's/dementia





"It is better
to light a
candle than
curse the
darkness."
-Eleanor
Roosevelt

Questions?
