
Patient Care During Transport of Suspected Highly Infectious Agent

Purpose: The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidance for transport of a patient with a known or suspected highly infectious disease including pathogens referred to as “Category A” agents from a health care facility to another, more specialized health care facility.

The EMS Agency Will

- A. Prior to transport, the transporting agency will communicate with the sending (departing) and receiving (arriving) hospital facility to coordinate existing and anticipated patient care needs.
 - a. Determine the medical authority for the patient while in transit. Refer to the state protocol.
 - b. Determine the number and mix of staff needed to provide care during transport.
 - c. Assure that equipment, devices, and crew can fit into the load-carrying dimensions of all planned transport vehicles.
 - d. Determine if the patient has proper identification for transport.
 - e. Determine method for patient tracking.
 - f. Determine method to document patient care while preventing contamination.
- B. Assess and develop plans for:
 - a. Physical needs of the patient: baseline vital signs via non-invasive method. Use blue tooth technology, disposable O2 saturation monitor.
 - b. Assess ability to provide for physical comfort of patient:
 - i. Heat
 - ii. Air flow
 - c. Plans for failure of equipment.
 - d. Identified pre-existing conditions that will require medication or other means of support (such as diabetes, oxygen therapy, etc.). Identify method to support these conditions if necessary.
 - e. Avoid use of sharps (needles, lancets) unless necessary. Dispose in sharps container.
 - f. Identify current life support status and identify procedures that will or will not be performed during transport.
 - g. Identify medications necessary for patient comfort during transport: sedation, pain, nausea.
 - h. Identify method to handle fluid loss (vomiting, diarrhea, urine) during transport.
 - i. Patient wipes absorbent pads, solidifier, trash bags, duct tape.
 - ii. Wipes for cleaning and disinfection of spills. Minimize the use of bleach wipes during transit to prevent overpowering fumes.
- C. Provide for crew safety during transport
 - a. Assess how communication will occur among all crew.



Michigan
SPECIAL OPERATIONS

SPECIAL PATHOGEN RESPONSE NETWORK (SPRN)

PATIENT CARE DURING TRANSPORT OF SUSPECTED HIGHLY INFECTIOUS AGENT (Optional)

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- b. If PPE is breached, crew should wipe affected area with bleach and communicate breach immediately to supervisor.
- c. Plans should include area for emergency doffing of PPE for crew safety.
- d. Identify nearest Patient Transfer Point (PTP) to provide relief of staff.