



Hospital Readiness Checklist

November 12, 2014

This checklist is to identify readiness and capability for hospitals to hold a person under investigation (PUI) for Ebola virus disease for up to 24 hours to evaluate and stabilize before transferring, if needed, to a hospital for definitive care. This checklist is not intended to establish mandatory requirements or state standards.

A PUI is an individual who has potentially been exposed to Ebola and developed symptoms within 21 days afterwards. We expect that most such persons will have been identified on arrival into the United States and promptly become persons under monitoring (PUMs) by the local public health authority (LPHA). Upon developing symptoms, such persons should contact the LPHA, which would arrange for safe, controlled transport by EMS to the initial hospital. Nevertheless, it is possible that such a patient may “drop in” to a hospital or another healthcare setting.

In this checklist, “healthcare personnel” refers to all persons, paid and unpaid, working in healthcare settings who have the potential for exposure to patients or to infectious materials, including body substances, contaminated medical supplies and equipment or contaminated environmental surfaces.

Hospitals should review infection control policies and procedures, and incorporate plans for administrative, environmental and communication measures, as well as personal protective equipment (PPE), and training and education. Hospitals should also define the individual work practices that will be required to identify promptly a patient with Ebola, prevent spread, and manage the impact on other patients, the hospital and staff.

- Points of contact responsible for communication between your hospital and local public health officials have been identified.
- An outside location has been designated for safe transfer of a PUI from EMS to an isolation room and thence to another hospital for definitive care when PUI is ready for transfer.
- A waste management plan is in place for EMS waste during transfer of PUI.
- An isolation room is ready and equipped for the PUI. This includes plans and supplies for the regular cleaning and disinfection of surfaces in the patient care area, even those without visible contamination as well as the immediate disinfection of any visibly contaminated PPE surfaces, equipment, or patient care area surfaces using an *EPA-registered disinfectant wipe. [EPA List of Products for Use Against Ebola](#)

- Access to the isolation room is configured so as to minimize the likelihood that healthcare personnel leaving it might contaminate themselves or others during or after the doffing of their PPE.
- Waste disposal protocols in conformity with CDC Waste Management Guidelines are in place. [Ebola Medical Waste Management](#)
- PPE on-site is sufficient for staff to care for a PUI until he or she is ready for transfer. PPE must meet nationally recognized standards as defined by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), CDC, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or Interagency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability. [CDC Guidance on PPE](#)
- A number of appropriate staff - sufficient to care for a PUI until ready for transfer - have demonstrated competency in performing all Ebola-related infection control practices and procedures, and specifically in donning and doffing proper PPE.
- A buddy system is in place for ensuring the safety of healthcare personnel who will directly care for PUIs.
- Specimen testing protocols that conform with CDC guidance are in place. [CDC Laboratory Guidance](#)

Resources: Please monitor CDC’s Ebola website frequently, and review CDC’s Ebola response guide checklists.

CHECKLISTS:

Hospital Checklist: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/hospital-checklist-ebola-preparedness.pdf>

PPE Procedures: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/procedures-for-ppe.html>

Respiratory Protection for Ebola



Resources continued:

[Web-based PPE training](#)

Fact sheet: [CDC Tightened Guidance for U.S. Healthcare Workers on Personal Protective Equipment for Ebola](#)

Lab guidelines: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-specimen-collection-submission-patients-suspected-infection-ebola.html>

Waste management guidance: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/medical-waste-management.html>

Safe handling of patients in a hospital: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/patient-management-us-hospitals.html>

CDC Health Alert Network (HAN): <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/HAN/>

CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA): <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/>

CDC National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/>

U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration Newsletter: <https://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/index.html>