



Section 1: Administrative / Medical Control

GUIDELINE/PROCEDURES: INFECTION CONTROL/EXPOSURE POLICY

Ohio law provides for the welfare and protection of EMS and other Emergency Care Workers (ECW) in two separate sections of the Ohio Revised Code:

- If there has been either an airborne or bloodborne exposure to the ECW, every hospital must have a policy to follow - up appropriately. This may include testing of the patient source and the ECW. It is important to report the exposure so the patient source can be tested at the facility where the patient has been transported.
- The second section establishes the obligation of the hospital, once a patient has been diagnosed with a communicable disease, to find out if there was any exposure during transport of the patient.

All possible exposures must be documented both at the hospital and at the place of employment. Various forms must be completed.

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

Emergency Care Workers are to consider **ALL** patients as potentially infected with a communicable disease and are to adhere **RIGOROUSLY** to Infection Control precautions for minimizing the risk of exposure to blood and body fluids of **ALL** patients.

Guidelines:

1. ALWAYS wear gloves.
2. ALWAYS wear gloves, mask, goggles when performing airway maneuvers such as bagging, airway insertion, intubation, and suctioning.
3. Wear apron, jumpsuit or other coverall when exposed to large amounts of blood or body fluids.
4. For Airborne Communicable Diseases, care must be taken to wear the proper mask, ventilate the squad, and limit exposure of EMS personnel as much as possible. If a patient has fever, cough or rash, a mask is a good idea.
5. Maintain good handwashing practices after removing gloves.
6. Obtain Hepatitis B Vaccination and other testing and vaccines as recommended.
7. Handle "Sharps" carefully - dispose of properly.
8. Wear personal protective gear when CLEANING contaminated equipment.
9. Dispose of contaminated waste, equipment and clothing carefully and properly

**Report EXPOSURES immediately and at location of patient transport.
Document and follow up properly.**