



Section 1: Administrative / Medical Control

GUIDELINE/PROCEDURES: BED BUGS

PURPOSE:

To provide personal protection recommendations to EMS providers who are presented with a patient in a known or suspected bed bug infestation.

PROCEDURE:

- Take universal precautions.
- Take only needed equipment into the area of infestation to minimize exposure.
- Seal equipment in plastic bags when necessary to prevent exposure.
- Avoid sitting on beds or furniture. If you have to sit, do so on a hard surface.
- If you feel you have been infested, shower and seal clothes in a plastic bag.
- Place potentially exposed clothing in a hot dryer for 10 minutes to kill the bugs.
- Footies, caps, and gloves should be worn if available during care.
- Remove these items before entering the vehicle and place in a plastic bag.
- Dispose of trash bags containing used PPE equipment in sealed containers.
- Keep patients wrapped during transport as much as possible to prevent transfer of bed bugs to the ambulance, or locations other than the hospital room the patient is put into.
- Clean and disinfect the vehicle as soon as possible.
- Notify the receiving facility as soon as possible regarding potential for bed bug exposure.

