

## Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Standard Operating Procedures Patient Transportation

**“Keep Safe - Keep Serving”**

**Liberia: Updated Sept 25, 2014**

**This document is intended to inform infection prevention and control practices and supply needs in healthcare facilities. As the Ebola outbreak evolves, the document will need to be adapted accordingly.**

### AMBULANCES OR VEHICLES CARRYING PATIENTS

- Dead bodies should be transported by the burial team.
- The vehicle should have a separate space for the patient being transported and driver. This space should have a divider.
- Staff who have direct physical contact with suspected or confirmed Ebola patients (EVD) (e.g. helping the patient to get into the ambulance; providing care to patients during the transport) patients should wear personal protective equipment (PPE).
- If the patient is coughing, ask him/her to wear a mask.
- When staff are assisting ambulatory patients who are not coughing, vomiting, or who have diarrhoea, PPE should include at least: gloves, face shield, and gown.
  - Put on PPE in the following sequence: 1. take off jewellery, 2. wash hands soap/water OR 0.05% chlorine OR alcohol-based hand sanitizer, 3. Put on face shield, 4. Put on gloves, 5. put on gown.
  - Remove PPE in the following sequence: 1. Take off gown, 2. Take off gloves, 3. Wash hands with soap/ water OR 0.05% chlorine 4. Take off face shield, 5. Immediately after removing equipment, wash hands with soap/water OR 0.05% chlorine OR alcohol-based hand sanitizer again.
- Enhanced PPE should be worn when transporting patients with vomiting, diarrhoea, or bleeding. It should be always changed and safely disposed of after assisting a patient.
  - Put on PPE in the following sequence: 1. take off jewelry, 2. Put on rain boots 3. wash hands soap/water OR 0.05% chlorine OR alcohol-based hand sanitizer, 4. Put on first pair of gloves, 5. put on gown, 6. put on head cover, 7. put on face mask, 8. put on face shield, 9. put on outer pair of gloves, 10. Put on apron.
  - Remove PPE in the following sequence: 1. wash gloved hands with 0.05% chlorine, 2. Take off apron, 3. wash gloved hands with 0.05% chlorine, 4. take off the outside gloves (1st pair), 5. wash gloved hands with 0.05% chlorine, 6. take off gown, 7. wash gloved hands with 0.05% chlorine, 8. inspect and disinfect the boots, 9. wash gloved hands with 0.05% chlorine, 10. take off face shield, 11. wash gloved hands with 0.5% chlorine, 12. take off face mask, 13. wash gloved hands with 0.05% chlorine, 14.

Take off head cover, 15. Wash gloved hands with 0.05% chlorine, 16. take off inside gloves (2nd pair), 17. immediately after removing equipment, wash hands with soap/water OR 0.05% chlorine OR alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- PPE should be disposed of into waste containers or plastic bags for highly-infectious material.
- Staff should perform hand hygiene with an alcohol-based hand rub solution or with soap and water or with 0.05% chlorine solution after exposure with the patient's body fluids, after touching surfaces/items/equipment contaminated blood and body fluids, and after removal of PPE.
- PPE is not required for individuals driving or riding in the designated space with the driver, provided there is a barrier space between the patients and driver area and drivers or riders will not touch any patient or any person accompanying the patient.
- Ambulances and other vehicles used for patient transport should be cleaned and decontaminated immediately after carrying any patient but especially a suspect, probable or confirmed Ebola patients. Otherwise the ambulance and other vehicles should be regularly (ideally after every patient but at least once a day) cleaned and decontaminated with standard detergents/disinfectants (e.g. a 0.5% chlorine solution). If the surfaces have been soiled with blood or bodily fluids, they should be cleaned twice and decontaminated immediately.
- Ambulances and other vehicles used for patient transport should be always equipped with gloves and masks and full PPEs sets, alcohol-based hand sanitizer solutions, waste bags, body bags, a water tank, wipes, detergent and disinfectant.

#### TAXI AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTS

- In highly affected areas, taxi drivers should be advised to:
  - Set up a partition between the front and the back seats of the car. Clear plastic bags suffice.
  - Avoid shaking hands with the customer.
  - Perform hand hygiene frequently with either water and soap or alcohol-based hand sanitizer solutions, in particular after touching surfaces or objects soiled with soiled with blood and body fluids, even if gloves were used.
  - Put plastic sheets covering the back seats which should be immediately changed and disposed of in a sealed waste bag if soiled with blood and body fluids and handled with gloves on.
  - Carry alcohol-based hand sanitizer solutions, gloves, waste bags, wipes, and a disinfectant.
- Drivers should be recommended to refer to a healthcare facility/authority if they have been exposed to a sick person likely to have EVD (physical contact with the patient or with his/her blood or bodily fluids).