

Identifying Patients with Possible Ebola Virus Disease in Ambulatory Care Settings

Triage in Clinical Settings

The vast majority of febrile patients in ambulatory settings do not have Ebola, and the risk posed by an Ebola patient with early, limited symptoms is lower than that of a patient hospitalized with severe disease. Still, because early Ebola symptoms mirror other febrile illnesses, triage and evaluation should account for the possibility of Ebola.

IDENTIFY

Ask about:
(1) Travel and exposure history: "Have you traveled to an Ebola-affected country* or had contact with a confirmed Ebola case in the 21 days before you started to feel sick?"

NO

NO RISK FOR EBOLA:
 Continue with usual triage, assessment and scheduling.

YES

*Widespread transmission of Ebola virus disease is occurring in the West African countries of **Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone**. Other countries may occasionally have limited transmission in **settings with uncertain control measures**; as of **12/4/14, Bamako in Mali is affected**. See the CDC website for the most recent information. <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html>

Ask about:
(2) Signs and symptoms: "Do you have fever (subjective or measured) or headache, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or unexplained bleeding?"

NO

HANDLE AS ROUTINE OFFICE VISIT:

(a) Ask patient if the NYC Health Department has been speaking with him/her daily about his/her temperature and symptoms.
 (b) If "Yes," continue with usual triage, assessment and scheduling.
 (c) If "No,":

- (i) Obtain patient name, date of birth, current address, current phone number(s), West African country traveled from and dates of travel.
- (ii) Tell patient that the Health Department will contact him/her to monitor for fever and symptoms for 21 days after last exposure.
- (iii) Call the Health Department Provider Access Line at **1-866-692-3461** to enroll the patient in active monitoring.
- (iv) Continue with usual triage, assessment and scheduling.

YES

ISOLATE

Patient may meet criteria for Person Under Investigation for Ebola. Isolate patient immediately. Avoid unnecessary contact.

- A) Immediately** place patient in private room with closed door, preferably with a bathroom or covered commode.
- B) No one** should have direct contact with a Person Under Investigation for Ebola without wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). *(Details below)*.
- C)** Put one person in charge of overseeing which staff have contact with the patient.
- D)** Minimize number of staff interacting with patient. Do not perform phlebotomy, and do not give nebulizer treatments.
- E) Do not** refer patients to Emergency Department, hospital, or other facility without consulting the Health Department.
- F)** If patient is exhibiting obvious bleeding, vomiting or copious diarrhea, call 911. Do not re-enter room until appropriately protected EMS personnel arrive.

INFORM

Inform NYC Health Department immediately by calling the Provider Access Line, 1-866-692-3461.

A.) Be prepared to:

1. Provide patient's name, date of birth, address, phone, date of symptom onset, West African country traveled from and dates of travel.
2. Describe patient's travel history and exposures that put him/her at risk for Ebola.
3. Describe patient's symptoms, signs and duration of illness

B.) The Health Department will:

1. Consult with you about need to transport the individual.
2. Help arrange transport to another medical facility, if needed, and make related notifications.

C.) Do NOT transfer patient without telling the Health Department.

D.) Consult with Health Department before cleaning or disinfecting room or equipment used on patient.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the Ambulatory Care Setting

No one should have direct contact with a Person Under Investigation for Ebola without wearing appropriate PPE.

- A.)** If PPE is available and direct patient contact is necessary, a single staff member (trained in proper donning and removal of PPE) should be designated to interact with the Person Under Investigation for Ebola.
- B.)** At a minimum, health care workers should use the following PPE before direct patient contact: **face shield and surgical face mask, impermeable gown and two pairs of gloves.**
- C.)** The designated staff member should refrain from direct interaction with other staff and patients in the care setting until PPE has been safely removed in a designated area and hand hygiene performed. Review examples of safe donning and removal of PPE: <http://bit.ly/1J8qtC0>