



McLean County Area EMS System

TITLE: NOTIFICATION OF PARAMEDIC AND AMBULANCE PERSONNEL OF EXPOSURE TO COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

POLICY STATEMENT:

The hospital shall notify pre-hospital care providers if it is determined a patient transported by paramedics or ambulance personnel has a communicable or infectious disease.

GOAL/PURPOSE:

To identify and notify those pre-hospital personnel who transport a patient with a communicable or infectious disease, so that those personnel may take necessary precautions prior to or seek recommended treatment following patient contact.

POLICY:

- A. Pre-hospital providers shall complete a patient care report on each patient transported and submit a copy to the receiving facility.
- B. Pre-hospital patient care reports shall include any significant exposure to patient body substances.
- C. If patients transported by pre-hospital services are diagnosed as having a communicable or infectious disease, the involved pre-hospital personnel shall be notified by the hospital's Infection Control department within seventy-two (72) hours after the confirmed diagnosis. The designated employer or person in charge of the pre-hospital service has the responsibility of notification of the involved pre-hospital providers.
- D. If EMS personnel that are transporting a patient are directly exposed to a patient's body substances, the pre-hospital personnel should indicate "Significant Exposure" on the run sheet.

All pre-hospital care providers, including those from outlying areas, shall complete an incident form with an explanation of "Significant Exposure."

1. Types of Exposure
 - a. Parenteral (i.e., needlestick)
 - b. Mucous membrane (eyes, mouth, genital)
 - c. Significant skin exposure (i.e., open sores, cuts, cracks in skin) to blood, urine, saliva, bile, semen
- E. When a hospital patient with a listed communicable disease is to be transported by pre-hospital personnel, the hospital staff sending the patient shall inform the pre-hospital personnel of any precautions to be taken to protect against exposure to disease. If the pre-hospital personnel fail to take precautions and a significant exposure occurs, the pre-hospital personnel shall complete an incident report form and send it to the EMS System office.
- F. Pre-hospital personnel shall maintain all information received as confidential medical records.