



McLean County Area EMS System

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Title of Policy: <i>Notification of Ambulance Personnel of Exposure to Communicable Disease</i>	Policy Number: IC-101
Effective Date: 10/2004	Review Date: 10/05/2016
Policy Area: Infection Control	Approvals: EMSSC, EMS MD

Background to Policy:

1. 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 Statement:

1. 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.

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.
- e. All pre-hospital care providers, including those from outlying areas, shall complete an incident form with an explanation of "*Significant Exposure*."
- f. Types of Exposure
 - i. Parenteral (i.e., needle stick)
 - ii. Mucous membrane (eyes, mouth, genital)
 - iii. Significant skin exposure (i.e., open sores, cuts, cracks in skin) to blood, urine, saliva, bile, semen
- g. 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.
- h. Pre-hospital personnel shall maintain all information received as confidential medical records.

Resources:

1. [System Incident Report Form](#)
2. [IDPH Reportable Diseases Poster](#)