**Ebola Readiness**

Lessons learned from Ebola-Assessments Facilities On-Site Visits

July - October 2015

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| **11 Domains of Preparedness** | **Frequently Identified Issues** |
| **Patient Rooms** | Adequate space to safely doff PPE – **CONTAMINATION OF HCW MOST LIKELY HERE**POCT space layouts are found to be small, tight spaces - need space to do safely and locate out of high traffic areas.Waste Storage should be in an area that can be lockedStrive for one-way flow (Clean 🡪 Dirty).Do you have a spill kit?If using POCT – have you practiced performing tests in PPE?Made sure you have a covered toilet – a cafeteria tray works.Consider what pictures the media’s camera lens can capture in your patient locations |
| **Patient Transport** | EMS often using hazmat PPE, best to use same PPE as hospital staff.DO NOT use spray down method to decontaminate the suit before removal.Need more coordination between State-EMS-Hospital during inter-facility transport.Long distance transport – have stop-off points identified on the route  (e.g. fire department – harder for media and on-lookers to be an issue)Is EMS involved in facility drills or table top exercises?Terminal clean of Ambulance: Written procedures? Practiced? Ambulance locked  until cleaned/disinfected or patient ruled out?What happens to EMS waste – Best if can leave with hospital.Have intra-facility transport plans been practiced?Have inter-facility transport plans been practiced? |
| **Laboratory****MOST****DIFFICULT****DOMAIN** | Type of PPE for Laboratory.Has Laboratory staff practiced donning/doffing?Specimen handling – who/how will specimen be transported within facility?Specimen packaging – are staff certified and/or trained for Category A?Specimen transport – do you have a courier that will transport Category A?Does the Laboratory have a Biosafety Plan?Issues with manufacturers on future service to analyzer if Ebola specimen processed.How is waste disposal from analyzer handled? – is it ok with local authorities?Written procedures lacking.Minimum Required Testing: issues with LFTs, malaria, CBC and Rapid InfluenzaIf POCT used – are staff trained and are competencies done? |
| **Staffing** | Enough nurses for 96 hours (need approximately 25-30 nurses) [Assessment hospital]Shift duration in PPE should be a maximum of 2 hours, 4 hours is too long.HR policies – Have them ahead of time (e.g. will employee be off for 21 days?)Have you verified staff are physically and mentally able to care for Ebola patient?Need to have a trained observer for donning/doffing PPE (in addition to site manager)Have you defined the role of the site manager? |
| **Training** | Use a team for Ebola vs. training all staff, in order to maintain competency.Frequency of refresher training: ideal = quarterly; maximum: every 6 months.Are your staff current on N-95 or PAPR annual competency? |

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| **11 Domains of Preparedness** | **Frequently Identified Issues** |
| **PPE** | Think infectious disease vs. hazmat for PPE.Taping of gloves to suit should be with vertical strips vs. horizontal wrap.Scissors SHALL NOT be used to cut tape around wrists.New guidelines for DRY patient PPE vs. WET patient PPE, consider both vs. just WET.Two different color gloves (inner, outer) best, in order to see breach in PPE.Inner glove should be extended cuff. |
| **Waste Management** | Nationally, Category A waste is a hot topic, many couriers will not transport.Verify your waste disposal process with local authorities (human & solid waste)Containers – Do you have storage space? Can you get them timely? |
| **Worker Safety** | Logistics of employee monitoring protocols.Disinfecting with bleach resulting in staff respiratory issues. |
| **Environmental Services** | ☺ |
| **Clinical Management** | How will you handle parents if young child is patient?How will you handle well children if sibling is patient?How will you conduct invasive procedures?Fast/violent care (e.g. chest compressions): Can it done effectively in PPE?Do you have a plan for vulnerable populations? (Peds, L&D)Do you have an OB physician in your plan? |
| **Operations Coordination** | Consider staff use of social media as a potential issue for information control.How will you allow for communication between family and patient?  (e.g. I-pads, Tele-communications) |
| **Other** | Handling of the Deceased:* Triple bagging and sealers
* Make sure there is a method for identification on outside bag.

Drill Requirements = Annual |

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**PRACTICE ☺ PRACTICE ☺ PRACTICE**