

PROTOCOL FOR AMBULANCE TRANSFER FOR PATIENT UNDER INVESTIGATION (PUI) OF COVID-19

PREPARATION OF THE AMBULANCE

- It is advisable to remove all non-essential equipment related to care of the intended patient.
- Ambulance must be equipped with spillage kits, disinfectant wipes, sharps bin and clinical waste ready to be used by responders.
- Use of disposable bed sheet is encouraged.

NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN AN AMBULANCE

- It is advisable to only transport one patient in an ambulance.
- Medical direction from Emergency Physician can be obtained to allow transport of more than one patient with similar provisional diagnosis.
- There can be no mix of patient under investigation (PUI) with confirmed nCoV case.

PREPARATION OF STAFF

- All staffs accompanying patient in the ambulance must wear the recommended PPE:
 - Gloves.
 - N95 mask with goggles.
 - Disposable apron or gown.

CARE OF THE PATIENT DURING TRANSPORT

1. Respiratory Hygiene

- In absence of respiratory distress, patients can be provided with surgical mask.
- Oxygen supplement using nasal prong can be safely used under a surgical mask.
- Placement surgical mask on other oxygen supplement delivery device require Medical Direction from Emergency Physician.

2. Placement of patient

- Patient should be propped up in sitting position in stretcher unless clinically contraindicated.

3. Intervention in Pre-Hospital

- Do not perform any procedures on the patient unless absolutely necessary.
- Medical Direction must be obtained for transportation of patient requiring more than nasal prong oxygen.

4. Communication with Medical Emergency Call Centre (MECC) and Receiving Facility (if relevant)

- MECC must be informed regarding estimated time of arrival, patients' clinical condition or any updates in clinical status or transportation.
- It is the responsibility of MECC to inform and update receiving facility regarding estimated time of arrival and patients' clinical condition.

DECONTAMINATION

- If spillage occurs in the ambulance
 - Use chlorine granules in the spillage kit to absorb the spill.
 - After 2 minutes or when the granules crystallize, cover the spillage with the absorbent material e.g. tissue or blue sheet.
 - Do not remove the spill while the patient or staff is in the ambulance. The decontamination of the spillage is to be done at the designated hospital.
- Decontamination of the ambulance
 - The ambulance is to be decontaminated at the designated ambulance decontamination area at receiving hospitals.
 - Decontamination agent to be used as per recommendation.
- Decontamination of staff
 - Staff from other health facility that accompany patient should undergo decontamination in the designated receiving hospital ED before returning to their respected base.

DISINFECTION OF REUSABLE UTENSILS & DISPOSAL OF WASTE

- All reusable patient care utensils should be put into the appropriate biohazard receptacles and labelled for cleaning and disinfecting later.
- All waste disposals from the affected patient should follow guidelines of Clinical Waste Management.