

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Requestor:

Requestor Phone:

Requestor Email:

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 12 March 2018

Response Date: 13 March 2018

Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

The requestor asked ASPR TRACIE for guidance on when a Patient under Investigation (PUI) presents to a hospital. Specifically, she asked if the patient should be escorted back outside and told to walk around the building and enter through the ambulance bay in order to protect the public, or if they can they walk a short distance from the registration window to the designated room assigned. She noted that guidelines she reviewed stated that the individual should maintain a distance of 3 feet and they should be escorted to the patient designated room. In addition, if the patient is exhibiting symptoms, the healthcare worker(s) should don personal protective equipment (PPE), and alert housekeeping in the event of the patient losing bodily fluids during transport.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team reviewed several existing Topic Collections, including the [VHF/Ebola](#), [SARS/MERS](#), and [Epidemic/Pandemic Influenza](#) Topic Collections. A list of comprehensively developed Topic Collections can be found here: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/topic-collection>.

We also reached out to ASPR TRACIE Subject Matter Expert (SME) Cadre members to gather additional resources or anecdotal information that they could share with the requestor. Section I below includes comments from our SMEs, and Section II includes links to the resources we collected.

I. ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre Member Comments

Note: These are direct quotes or paraphrased from emails and other correspondence provided by ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre members in response to this specific request. They do not necessarily express the views of ASPR or ASPR TRACIE.

SME Cadre Member 1:

- There is very little benefit to walking a patient back outside. The recommendation from our emergency department is as soon as the PUI is recognized, staff should perform hand hygiene and apply a mask. The provider should then escort the individual (non-contact) to the appropriate room for evaluation.

- If the PUI is deemed a suspect case after provider evaluation, any chairs or other surfaces contaminated should be wiped down with appropriate cidal agents by a provider wearing contact precautions and using disposable materials.
- Unlike in radiation/ hazmat situations, the patient should not be tracking in contaminants.

SME Cadre Member 2:

- I agree with the points mentioned above.
- We also ask the healthcare worker who is escorting the suspected patient to don a mask/ hand hygiene without touching the patient, and to keep a safe distance of approximately 3 feet.

II. PUI and Infection Control Resources

Bellevue Hospital Center. (n.d.). [Ebola Virus Disease Incident Response Guide](#). (Accessed 3/13/2018.)

This guide includes protocols developed by Bellevue (NY) Hospital Center for managing a suspected or confirmed Ebola virus disease patient.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). [Identify, Isolate, Inform: Emergency Department Evaluation and Management for Patients Under Investigation \(PUIs\) for Ebola Virus Disease \(EVD\)](#). (Accessed 3/13/2018.)

This webpage provides guidance to emergency department staff on evaluating whether patients arriving in the emergency department might have Ebola virus disease. It includes triage recommendations, links to a screening algorithm, and information on personal protective equipment and environmental controls.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). [Interim Guidance for Environmental Infection Control in Hospitals for Ebola Virus](#). (Accessed 3/13/2018.)

This webpage provides recommendations on environmental controls, answers frequently asked questions, and includes links to additional guidance for hospitals caring for patients under investigation for or confirmed to have Ebola virus disease.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). [2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings](#).

This document provides infection control guidelines for healthcare settings across the continuum of care.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Hospitalized Patients Under Investigation \(PUIs\) for Ebola Virus Disease \(EVD\) in U.S. Hospitals](#).

This webpage provides guidance for healthcare professionals regarding standard, contact, and droplet precautions when caring for an individual with suspected or confirmed Ebola.