

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 21 December 2016

Response Date: 3 January 2017; updated 12 August 2019

Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

The requestor asked if there was a table that provides guidance regarding which personal protective equipment (PPE) should be provided to workers at Points of Dispensing (POD) sites when they are dispensing medication in response to a communicable disease (e.g., pandemic flu, plague, viral hemorrhagic fevers).

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team conducted a search for resources related to PPE for POD personnel. We were unable to locate a single table that lists PPE for POD personnel based on various infectious diseases. However, the resources below provide guidance and may be useful in developing such a table. In particular, we would like to highlight the [Infection Prevention in Points of Dispensing](#) resource (Rebmann, 2009), which includes tables for general recommended PPE in PODs (note they are not specific to different infectious diseases).

Alabama Department of Public Health. Infection Prevention Section, Bureau of Communicable Disease. (2010). [Infection Prevention Guidelines](#).

This document provides infection control guidelines for use at any public healthcare setting. It utilizes the Standard Precautions endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the American Public Health Association.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). [For U.S. Healthcare Settings: Donning and Doffing Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) for Evaluating Persons Under Investigation \(PUIs\) for Ebola Who Are Clinically Stable and Do Not Have Bleeding, Vomiting, or Diarrhea](#). (Accessed 8/12/2019.)

This guidance is specifically for healthcare workers (can also be adapted to POD personnel) evaluating persons under investigation for Ebola. These persons are clinically stable and do not have bleeding, vomiting, or diarrhea. Click [here](#) for guidance on working with patients with confirmed Ebola or who are clinically unstable, vomiting, bleeding, or has diarrhea.

European Union, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. (2014). [Safe Use of Personal Protective Equipment in the Treatment of Infectious Diseases of High Consequence: A Tutorial for Trainers in Healthcare Settings.](#)

This 95-page document presents the fundamental concepts of PPE and barrier nursing to improve the protection of staff dealing with infectious diseases of high consequence, including Ebola and highly infectious pathogens. It provides practical information on the proper use of PPE at the point of care, including technical requirements and procurement aspects. It aims to strengthen capabilities and capacities in hospital preparedness across Europe and in other countries with equivalent standards in healthcare. Table 4 on page 25 provides recommendations for PPE for contact and droplet versus air-borne transmitted diseases.

Rebmann, T. (2009). [Infection Prevention in Points of Dispensing.](#) American Journal of Infection Control. 37: 697-702.

The author of this article conducted a literature review of infection control measures for PODs and created a spreadsheet that delineates infection prevention issues. Table 1 includes recommended responsibilities of key incident command system positions for infection prevention interventions, Table 3 provides a list of PPE and supplies needed for infection prevention, and Table 4 identifies topics for POD staff trainings. This article also includes recommendations for screening and triage of POD visitors to limit potential infectious disease transmission.

U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (n.d.). [Infectious Diseases.](#) (Accessed 8/12/2019.)

This site provides Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommendations for protecting workers against transmission of infectious agents. There is a chart under the Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings that may be helpful in adapting for POD personnel. There is also information for various infectious diseases such as seasonal and pandemic flu, SARS, etc.

U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2014). [PPE Selection Matrix for Occupational Exposure to Ebola Virus.](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor shares information on the type of PPE to be worn in various situations (e.g., normal work activities, casual interaction, providing medical and supportive care, cleaning and disinfecting environments, and dealing with waste). Though this is not specific to PPE for POD personnel, the table on page 2 of this document provides an overview of recommended PPE for different interaction levels by personnel (e.g., casual interaction outside of a healthcare setting to providing medical care).