

HEALTH CENTER SCREENING PROCEDURE

CLINICAL PRACTICE

Infection Control to Prevent Spread of Ebola

PURPOSE

Early recognition is critical to controlling the spread of Ebola virus.

PROCEDURE

Phone Screening: The **receptionist** will ask every patient who is scheduling an appointment by phone and during the appointment reminder calls:

1. **“Have you traveled to West Africa in the last couple of months or been in contact with anyone who has?”**
2. If the answer is no, schedule the appointment. If yes, route the call to the Nursing Supervisor but if she is not available route the call to the Nursing Lead, RN, or LVN to triage the call.

Phone Triage: The **RN or LVN** will ask the patient the following about the history of travel:

1. Ask the patient, **“Are you sick?”**
2. If the patient is sick ask the patient, **“What symptoms are you having?”**
3. Listen for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) symptoms of fever, headache, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or hemorrhage. Note all symptoms in the patients’ medical record.
4. If the patient has any of these symptoms ask the patient, **“What day did your symptoms start?”**
5. Then ask, **“Where you in West Africa within the 21 days prior that date?”**
6. Then ask, **“What day did you come to America?”**
7. Then ask, **“Do you know if you were exposed to anyone with Ebola while in West Africa?”**
To clarify, determine as close as to possible the date of illness onset, where the patient was located at illness onset, and if exposure occurred to the patient’s knowledge so as to help determine if illness onset was within 21 days of exposure.
8. Ask the patient, **“What part of West Africa were you at?”** Listen for areas including: **Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali, and Guinea.**

Let the patient know you want to provide him/her with the best possible care and that you will be providing the information to the Director of Clinical Services who will be calling them back shortly. Then call the Director of Clinical Services immediately with all information. Note all details in the EHR.

The Director of Clinical Services (DCS) will utilize the CDC Ebola Virus Disease Algorithm for Evaluation of the Returned Traveler to determine if High-Risk Exposure, Low-Risk Exposure, or No Known Exposure categories. The DCS will contact the Chief Medical Director, the appropriate authorities, and contact the patient with instructions.

The Patient Presents to the Clinic Screening: The **receptionist** will ask every patient who presents themselves at the clinic:

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1. **“Have you traveled to West Africa in the last couple of months or been in contact with anyone who has?”** If the answer is no, schedule the appointment or move forward with the already scheduled appointment.
2. If yes, hand the patient an N-95 mask and instruct the patient to put it on. Then instruct the patient to use the nearest exit to go outside. Instruct the patient how to get to the door closest to the assigned infection control exam room.
3. The receptionist will contact the Nursing Supervisor/Nursing Lead/RN/LVN to don PPE specific to Ebola and meet the patient at the door.

The Patient Presents to the Assigned Infection Control Exam Room Outside Door: The Buddy System for donning and doffing PPE will take place for potential Ebola exposure:

1. The **Nursing Supervisor/RN/LVN/MA** will contact the Provider and the observer to don PPE.
2. One nurse or MA will observe the donning process of the Provider and Nurse or MA.
3. The Nursing Supervisor/Nursing Lead/RN/LVN/MA and the Provider will escort the patient to the assigned room **together** to prevent unnecessary exposure by opening and closing the door multiple times.
4. Ask the patient, **“Are you sick?”**
5. If the patient is sick ask the patient, **“What symptoms are you having?”**
6. Listen for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) symptoms of fever, headache, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or hemorrhage. Note all symptoms in the patients’ medical record.
7. If the patient has any of these symptoms ask the patient, **“What day did your symptoms start?”**
8. Then ask, **“Where you in West Africa within the 21 days prior that date?”**
9. Then ask, **“What day did you come to America?”**
10. Then ask, **“Do you know if you were exposed to anyone with Ebola while in West Africa?”**
To clarify, determine as close as to possible the date of illness onset, where the patient was located at illness onset, and if exposure occurred to the patient’s knowledge so as to help determine if illness onset was within 21 days of exposure.
11. Ask the patient, **“What part of West Africa were you at?”** Listen for areas including: **Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea.**
12. After taking vital signs, leave all equipment including pens, paper, thermometers, blood pressure cuffs, etc. in the patient’s exam room.
13. Document all information in the EHR.
14. The Provider will conduct the examination.
15. If the Provider believes the patient may have Ebola, explain to the patient to remain in the assigned infection control exam room until further notice.
16. Doff PPE appropriately per Ebola PPE protocol.

The Nursing Supervisor will let the patient know we want to provide him/her with the best possible care and that you will be providing the information to the Director of Clinical Services.

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The DCS will contact the Chief Medical Director and the appropriate authorities to receive further instructions for patient care.