	The Johns Hopkins Hospital INTERDISCIPLINARY CLINICAL PRACTICE MANUAL	<i>Policy Number</i>	IFC-030
	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>	09-98
	INITIAL MANAGEMENT OF SUSPECTED VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC FEVERS	<i>Page</i>	1 of 2
		<i>Supersedes</i>	N/A

POLICY

Acute viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) is an illness caused by a number of geographically restricted viruses, including Lassa, Marburg, Ebola, and Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever viruses. These viruses are known to have caused significant outbreaks of disease with person-to-person transmission. Potential sources of these viruses in the United States are (1) imported cases; (2) laboratories conducting research on the viruses or laboratories receiving specimens from patients who have fever of unknown origin; (3) imported infected rodents (highly unlikely) or laboratory research animals; and (4) an act of biologic warfare. If a patient with suspected acute viral hemorrhagic fever is admitted to the Johns Hopkins Hospital, the Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control Department, in conjunction with the state and local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), will advise personnel on appropriate precautions and actions to take.

REFERENCE

Centers for Disease Control. Recommendations for management of suspected viral hemorrhagic fever. MMWR Supplement 1988;37(S-3).


RESPONSIBILITIES

JHH Employee	Must follow the policy.
Supervisor/Department Management	Ensure employee compliance with this policy.
Department of Hospital Epidemiology	Submit policies to Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control Committee to review and approve as necessary.

PROCEDURES

When a patient with the diagnosis of acute viral hemorrhagic fever is admitted, the following measures must be employed to minimize the risk of transmitting the virus:

- A. Immediately notify the Department of HEIC (955-8384 or pager 23-3855).
- B. Place the patient in Strict Isolation; a single room with anteroom.
- C. Transport the patient to the isolation room with the patient wearing a standard surgical mask.
- D. All persons entering the patient's room must wear disposable gowns, gloves, masks, and shoe covers. Wear protective eyewear if the patient is disoriented or uncooperative, or when splashing might occur.
- E. Place any disposable items used for patient care, including linens, in a double plastic bag and saturate with 0.5% sodium hypochlorite (1:10 dilution of bleach). Place sharps in the sharps container and saturate with 0.5% sodium hypochlorite (1:10 dilution of bleach). Wipe these containers with 0.5% sodium hypochlorite (1:10 dilution of bleach) and send them to be incinerated.
- F. Only essential personnel should enter the patient's room and anteroom.
- G. The patient must use a chemical toilet. Treat all exceptions, secretions, and body fluids with 0.5% sodium hypochlorite (1:10 dilution of bleach) prior to flushing toilet.

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- H. Disinfect all surfaces and equipment contaminated with secretions, excretions, or body fluids with a 0.5% sodium hypochlorite (1:10 dilution of bleach).
- I. All laboratory specimens are handled according to guidelines developed by the CDC. Make special arrangements to obtain, package, and transport specimens.
- J. Contact HEIC for proper procedures if the patient expires.

SPONSOR

Director of Department of Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control

COMMUNICATION

The Policy Department will distribute this policy to all manual holders of the Interdisciplinary Clinical Practice Manual.

REVIEW CYCLE

3 - Year

APPROVAL

Vice President for Medical Affairs

Date