

**SPECIAL PATHOGEN RESPONSE NETWORK (SPRN)**  
**PATIENT CARE DURING TRANSPORT OF SUSPECTED HIGHLY INFECTIOUS AGENT**  
(MCA Optional Protocol)

Initial Date: 04/28/17

Revised Date: 12/27/2022

Section 10-14

Medical Control Authorities choosing to adopt this supplement may do so by selecting this check box. Adopting this supplement changes or clarifies the referenced protocol or procedure in some way. This supplement supersedes, clarifies, or has authority over the referenced protocol. This protocol will only be used by SPRN trained individuals.

## ***Patient Care During Transport of Suspected Highly Infectious Agent***

**Purpose:** The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidance for transport of a patient with a known or suspected highly infectious disease including pathogens referred to as “Category A” agents from a health care facility to another, more specialized health care facility.

### **The EMS Agency Will**

- A. Prior to transport, the transporting agency will communicate with the sending (departing) and receiving (arriving) hospital facility to coordinate existing and anticipated patient care needs.
  - a. Determine the medical authority for the patient while in transit. Refer to the state protocol.
  - b. Determine the number and mix of staff needed to provide care during transport.
  - c. Assure that equipment, devices, and crew can fit into the load-carrying dimensions of all planned transport vehicles.
  - d. Determine if the patient has proper identification for transport.
  - e. Determine method for patient tracking.
  - f. Determine method to document patient care while preventing contamination.
- B. Assess and develop plans for:
  - a. Physical needs of the patient: baseline vital signs via non-invasive method. Use blue tooth technology, disposable O2 saturation monitor.
  - b. Assess ability to provide for physical comfort of patient:
    - i. Heat
    - ii. Air flow
  - c. Plans for failure of equipment.
  - d. Identified pre-existing conditions that will require medication or other means of support (such as diabetes, oxygen therapy, etc.). Identify method to support these conditions if necessary.
  - e. Avoid use of sharps (needles, lancets) unless necessary. Dispose in sharps container.
  - f. Identify current life support status and identify procedures that will or will not be performed during transport.
  - g. Identify medications necessary for patient comfort during transport: sedation, pain, nausea.

*Michigan*  
**SPECIAL OPERATIONS**

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- h. Identify method to handle fluid loss (vomiting, diarrhea, urine) during transport.
    - i. Patient wipes absorbent pads, solidifier, trash bags, duct tape.
    - ii. Wipes for cleaning and disinfection of spills. Minimize the use of bleach wipes during transit to prevent overpowering fumes.
  - C. Provide for crew safety during transport:
    - a. Assess how communication will occur among all crew.
    - b. If PPE is breached, crew should wipe affected area with bleach and communicate breach immediately to supervisor.
    - c. Plans should include area for emergency doffing of PPE for crew safety.
    - d. Identify nearest Patient Transfer Point (PTP) to provide relief of staff.