



Handling Personal Effects from Ebola Infected Patients

Technical Information Paper No. 37-033-1014

1. Purpose. To provide information concerning handling personal effects from patients diagnosed with Ebola virus disease (EVD).

2. Applicability. Military treatment facilities (MTF) receiving EVD patients.

3. Background. Patients who are admitted to the hospital are given a plastic bag for their personal items such as wallet, purse, clothing, etc. These items are then secured until the patient has been released to return home. Patients suspected of having EVD will admitted to the hospital and isolated during treatment. When Ebola is suspected, the personal effects bag should be quarantined.

4. Reference. See reference listed at the end of this document.

5. Infection Control Committee. The Infection Control (IC) committee should determine if personal effects will be disinfected and returned to the patient. The IC should develop a procedure to ensure quick and effective disinfection.

6. Disinfection Considerations. A decision will need to be made regarding what personal effects will be disinfected and returned to the patient versus what will be treated and disposed as regulated medical waste (RMW). All items will be placed in a clear, sealed bag until the patient or a family member has verbally identified those items to be disinfected and returned to the patient. In the event the patient or family member is unable or unavailable to make a determination, all items will be retained and disinfected per the IC protocol. Non-treated items will become medical wastes subject to management with all other isolation waste generated during the patient's care.

7. Handling of Personal Effects. Standard Precautions will be employed when handling, bagging, and disinfecting personnel effects.

8. Treatment Options. Patients or their families will be made aware of available treatment options and any adverse effects these may have on the items to be disinfected as these may be damaged or even destroyed during the process. A signed release may be required.

a. Chemical Disinfection. An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectant identified as suitable for Ebola virus decontamination, or bleach at a 10:1 solution will be used. The EPA has identified a number of disinfectants suitable for Ebola virus decontamination. The disinfectants on *List G: EPA's Registered Antimicrobial Products Effective Against Norovirus* have

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been identified as being acceptable for use against Ebola virus. A large number of these are peroxide and acidic/alkaline-based cleaners¹.

(1) Hard, non-porous surfaces such as credit cards, driver's license, keys, etc. can be wiped down or immersed. Used paper towels, sponges, or cleaning rags used for this purpose will be placed in the RMW.

(2) Soft porous surfaces such as fabrics, money, leather, etc. will be saturated with the disinfectant. However, the process may destroy or discolor the items.

b. Autoclaving. This will involve using an MTF autoclave with sufficient volume to permit the effective treatment of the items to be returned. All items may be treated using this method following MTF standard autoclaving procedures.

9. Point of Contact. The point of contact for this document is the Army Institute of Public Health Waste Management Program at 410-436-3651 or DSN 584-3651.

Reference:

¹ http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/list_g_norovirus.pdf