

SUSPECTED EXPOSURE TO BIOTERRORISM AGENT EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT TRIAGE GUIDELINE (Updated 12/08/01)

SUMC Bioterrorism & Emergency Preparedness Task Force

Patient Arriving to the ED after a Suspected Bioterrorism Agent Exposure

Asymptomatic

Symptomatic

Arrives as Walk-in

Arrives via EMS

Screened by security guard:
Seeking evaluation for suspected bioterrorism agent exposure?

NO

YES

Admit to the ED using standard protocol

ED Resource Nurse or Attending (wearing N95 masks, gloves, and disposable yellow gown) will escort patient to parking lot adjacent to ambulance bay and will assess the need for decontamination

ED Resource Nurse or Attending (wearing N95 masks, gloves, and disposable yellow gown) will assess the need for decontamination in parking lot adjacent to ambulance bay

If deemed necessary, decontamination will be completed using established guidelines:

- Call Hospital HAZMAT (*Page 16800*)
- If additional resources are needed, call Palo Alto Fire Department HAZMAT (*911*)
- Notify local law enforcement (*911*)
- Notify SCCPHD (*408*) 885-4214 Days
(*408*) 229-2501 Nights

After decontamination or if decontamination not deemed necessary:

- Admit patient to ED using standard protocol
- Obtain demographic and epidemiological information on each patient by completing Bioterrorism Agent Exposure Epidemiology Tracking Form
- Unless notified otherwise by SCCPHD, nasal swabs or other tests will **NOT** be collected to screen for anthrax or other biologic agents in asymptomatic pts
- If pt was deemed to have been possibly exposed to a bioterrorism agent, follow appropriate Clinical Pathway and seek guidance from SCCPHD regarding the role of prophylaxis

- Admit patient to the ED and place in Room 14
- Follow appropriate SUMC BT & Emergency Preparedness Task Force Clinical Pathways:
 - Anthrax Clinical Pathways for Clinics
 - Inhalational Anthrax Clinical Pathway
 - Cutaneous Anthrax Clinical Pathway
 - Smallpox Clinical Pathway (No Confirmed Smallpox Cases(s) Previously Reported)
 - Smallpox Clinical Pathway (Confirmed Smallpox Cases(s) Previously Reported)

OR

If different bioterrorism agent disease suspected, for guidance, contact:

- Infectious Diseases
Page 14031 (adult) or Call Operator 723-6661 (peds)
- Infection Control
Page 16167 (adult) or Page 18503 (peds)
- SCCPHD
*(408) 885-4214 Days
(408) 229-2501 Nights*

- When seeing patient, use infection control precautions per Infection Control Precautions for Suspected Bioterrorism Agent Disease
- Obtain demographic and epidemiological information on each patient by completing Bioterrorism Agent Exposure Epidemiology Tracking Form

IMPORTANT: If at any time, the number of patients arriving to the emergency department from a bioterrorism incident exceeds the staff's ability to care for them with the resources available, activate Code Zebra.