

**REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDING MEDICAL ORDERS
EMT-Basic, EMT-Paramedic**

SMO: Body Substance Exposure

Overview: Body substance exposure is a significant risk for pre-hospital care providers. This protocol serves as a guideline for exposure reporting in EMS Region 1. For specific information, review the receiving hospital specific procedure for reporting, treatment and follow-up care.

INFORMATION NEEDED

- Date and time of exposure.
- Host patient
- Type of exposure
- BSI used by pre-hospital provider

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS

- A significant exposure is blood or body fluids on or in non-intact skin.
- A non-significant exposure would be identified as blood or body fluids on in-tact skin or clothes, or BSI equipment

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Each hospital has specific procedures for the pre-hospital exposure. Consult with the E.D nurse manager for specific response to reporting, treatment and follow-up care.
- If a pre-hospital provider, (EMT, Fireman, Police Officer, etc), has a significant exposure, (e.g. blood or body fluid on non-intact skin, contact with mucous membranes or a needle stick), they should respond to the emergency department who is receiving the patient. The person has the exposure should notify the charge nurse of the receiving hospital emergency department and advise that a potential significant exposure has occurred.
- The appropriate hospital, system and department incident reports must be completed. Some departments require additional notification paperwork be completed). Once the appropriate forms are completed, they will be turned into the receiving hospitals Emergency Department Charge Nurse and appropriate agency / department officer.
- An EMS system form must be completed and returned to the resource hospital of the agency involved (e.g., An exposure happens to an EMT on XYZ department in Anywhere. A form must be filled out for Anywhere Hospital, XYZ department and the EMS Resource Hospital of XYZ department)
- The appropriate person in the receiving hospitals emergency department will evaluate the exposure to determine if a significant exposure has occurred..
- If a significant exposure has occurred or is suspect the receiving hospitals Emergency Department Charge Nurse or appropriate designee will implement the hospital specific response procedure. This procedure will include but not be limited to baseline blood test on the EMS provider and host patient, interview and counseling of risks to EMS provider. Follow-up information and / or referral which may or may not include prophylaxis.
- The response action will be documented on the incident report forms and forwarded to the EMS provider, receiving facility infection control provider, providers department officer (if applicable,

and the providers EMS System Resource Hospital.

- ___ Follow-up notification of test results is the responsibility of the receiving hospital infectious disease provider. The EMS Systems Coordinator will follow up within 48 hours of receipt of incident report to clarify procedure has been accomplished and notification and follow-up has occurred.
- ___ If the exposure is identified as non-significant the EMS provider will be advised of same and no further testing will be accomplished. The EMS provider will be counseled on proper use of BSI in the pre-hospital environment.
- ___ The non-significant exposure will be documented on the incident report and forwarded to the chain of command of the provider and the EMS Resource Hospital System Coordinator.

Documentation of adherence to protocol:

- ___ Complete and accurate information regarding
 - Exposure type
 - Host patient
 - EMS provider
 - Receiving hospital
 - Description of event
 - Results and follow-up care and notification

PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS

- It is imperative that the EMS provider who has a potential exposure report to the receiving hospital's emergency department at the time of exposure. Delay in reporting could result in hospital and staffs inability to attain host blood for testing and effectively provide counseling, intervention or follow-up. Do not wait
- The best response to a exposure is not to have one. Use proper BSI precautions in every patient encounter.
- If there are questions regarding SBI precautions, vaccinations or proper reporting, contact the local hospital, host agency / departments Chief or EMS Officer, or the EMS Systems Coordinator at the EMS Resource Hospital.