

**REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDING MEDICAL ORDERS
BLS**

SMO: Q Fever

Revised Date:

Overview: Q fever is a disease caused by the bacteria *Coxiella burnetii*, a rickettsial agent. Cattle, sheep and goats are the primary reservoirs in naturally-occurring illness and infection occurs from inhalation of organisms during handling and processing of animals. As a bio-weapon, Q fever would be an incapacitating agent and would not be expected to cause a high percentage of fatalities. Person-to-person transmission is not expected to occur. The incubation period is usually 10 to 40 days.

INFORMATION NEEDED

- History of the current illness
- The patient's occupation or any activity around sheep, goats or cattle
- Any patient family members or friends experiencing similar signs and symptoms

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS

- **One-half of all exposed individuals will be asymptomatic**
- **Acute cases may resemble flu-like illness or atypical pneumonia and include high fever, severe headache, general malaise, muscle pain, confusion, sore throat, chills, sweats, a non-productive cough, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and chest pain. The pediatric patient may show signs of meningitis without pathologic changes in the Meninges**
- **The fever may last 1 to 2 weeks.**
- **Pneumonia may develop in 30 to 50 percent of symptomatic patients.**
- **Most patients recover without treatment**
- **Mortality rate is low, 1 to 2 percent**

BLS

- Standard isolation techniques to be used by the EMS personnel, including masks
- Vital signs
- Assess for any other medical or trauma issues
- Provide supplemental oxygenation by nasal cannula at 2-6 LPM or by non-rebreather mask at 10-15 LPM

Documentation of adherence to protocol:

- History related to the current illness
- Oxygen provided

Medical Control Contact Criteria

- **None**

**REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDING MEDICAL ORDERS
ALS**

SMO: Q Fever

Revised Date:

Overview: Q fever is a disease caused by the bacteria Coxiella burnetii, a rickettsial agent. Cattle, sheep and goats are the primary reservoirs in naturally-occurring illness and infection occurs from inhalation of organisms during handling and processing of animals. As a bio-weapon, Q fever would be an incapacitating agent and would not be expected to cause a high percentage of fatalities. Person-to-person transmission is not expected to occur. The incubation period is usually 10 to 40 days.

INFORMATION NEEDED

- History of the current illness
- The patient's occupation or any activity around sheep, goats or cattle
- Any patient family members or friends experiencing similar signs and symptoms

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS

- One-half of all exposed individuals will be asymptomatic
- Acute cases may resemble flu-like illness or atypical pneumonia and include high fever, severe headache, general malaise, muscle pain, confusion, sore throat, chills, sweats, a non-productive cough, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and chest pain. The pediatric patient may show signs of meningitis without pathologic changes in the Meninges
- The fever may last 1 to 2 weeks.
- Pneumonia may develop in 30 to 50 percent of symptomatic patients.
- Most patients recover without treatment
- Mortality rate is low, 1 to 2 percent

ALS

- Standard isolation techniques to be used by the EMS personnel, including masks
- Vital signs
- Assess for any other medical or trauma issues
- Provide supplemental oxygenation by nasal cannula at 2-6 LPM or by non-rebreather mask at 10-15 LPM

Documentation of adherence to protocol:

- History related to the current illness
- Oxygen provided

Medical Control Contact Criteria

- None