

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

SMO: Tularemia

Revised Date:

Overview: Tularemia is caused by Francisella tularensis, one of the most infective agents known to man, with an exposure of as little as 10 to 50 organisms able to cause death. If F. tularensis is used as a bioweapon, it most likely would be used as an airborne agent with infection via the inhalational route. The usual incubation period is 3 to 5 days, with a range of 1 to 14 days.

INFORMATION NEEDED

- ___ History related to the present illness
- ___ Other members of the patient's family or friends who are experiencing the same signs and symptoms

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS

- ___ • **Initial presenting symptoms are non-specific and may include a sudden high fever, chills, headache, malaise, muscle pain, joint pain and progressive weakness. For the pediatric patient, acute febrile illness, progressing to pharyngitis, bronchiolitis, pneumonitis, pleuritis and lymphadenitis may occur. There is little evidence of respiratory disease initially.**
- ___ • **The respiratory component of inhalational tularemia is a slow, indolent course with a dry cough and progressive symptoms over weeks to months with progressive debilitation including sepsis, pneumonia (evidenced by chest pain, dyspnea, bloody sputum) and respiratory failure.**

BLS

- ___ Standard isolation techniques to be used by EMS personnel (Infected patients do not need isolation as person-to-person spread is not expected with this disease)
- ___ Assess the patient for any other medical or trauma issues
- ___ Supportive care with supplemental oxygenation if needed with a nasal cannula at 2-6 LPM or a non-rebreather mask at 10-15 LPM

Documentation of adherence to protocol:

- ___ History related to the illness
- ___ Oxygen provided

Medical Control Contact Criteria

- ___ • Contact Medical Control if there is any suspicion that the patient has been exposed to this disease

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