

# LEON COUNTY E.M.S.

## Standard Operating Guideline

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Title: Critical Care Team Personal Protective Equipment

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### I. GUIDELINE:

Leon County EMS will provide Critical Care Paramedics (CCP) with the personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary to protect themselves from exposure to infectious diseases at no cost. The PPE must be worn as specified in the Personal Protective Equipment List. LCEMS shall repair or replace any lost, stolen, or damaged Emergency Medical Services- issued PPE at no cost to the employee/trainee. (Reference All Employee Personal Protective Equipment SOG 305.00).

### II. PROCEDURE

#### 1. Equipment

PPE shall be carried aboard each emergency vehicle in a quantity sufficient to protect all crew members and anyone else (students, ride alongs, etc) on board the emergency vehicle. Due to the length of some Critical Care transports, sufficient amount of PPE shall be provided for the CCP(s). LCEMS shall maintain the following items in all emergency vehicles:

- Disposable Impervious Gowns
- Face mask/Eye Shield Combination Device
- Disposable Exam Gloves of various sizes
- Waterless Handwash
- Bio-Hazard bags with Warning Labels
- Puncture Resistant Sharps Container
- Portable Puncture Resistant Sharps Container (in carry in equipment)
- Pair Protective Eyewear (Goggles)
- High Level Disinfectant Solution

#### 2. Compliance Monitoring

- In such cases when circumstances preclude the use of PPE as outlined herein (danger to self/patient, or an impairment in the ability for the CCP to provide timely care to the patient), the CCP(s) shall document the incident in writing and submit the report to the Deputy Chief of Administration. This report will be required whether or not the CCP

perceives that an actual exposure occurred or not. The Deputy Chief of Administration shall review all such incidents on a case-by-case basis to determine the appropriateness of the CCP's actions and if any change in procedures or policies should be considered. In the event that any CCP is discovered to not have their PPE accounted for as stated previously, or any CCP is observed not complying with any provision of this procedural guideline, the employee shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

### 3. Procedures for Preventing Exposures

- Universal Precautions for ALL Patients.
- Precautions for Patients With Known Infectious Diseases
  - In the event that transportation is requested for a patient who is known to be the carrier of an infectious disease, the CCP(s) will be provided with all appropriate information. The CCP(s) will receive all information that has been provided to the LCEMS dispatcher.
  - The CCP(s) will return to Head Quarters to pick up any PPE supplies required for the transport.
  - Upon arrival at the pickup facility, the CCP(s) shall confirm the infectious condition of the patient, and any specific precautions to be aware of.
  - Upon arrival at the receiving facility, the CCP(s) shall notify the person assuming responsibility for the patient's care of the patient's condition and infectious status. This notification shall be made in a discreet fashion both verbally to the receiving personnel and in writing on the patient care report.

### 4. Specific Isolation Guidelines

#### Strict Isolation

**Diseases:** Abscess (unknown etiology), draining wounds, major burns, Diphtheria, disseminated Herpes Simplex, Impetigo, Meningitis (unknown etiology), Pediculosis (lice), Pneumonic Plague, Pneumonia, Rabies, Rubella, Scabies, Smallpox, Chicken Pox, Shingles, etc.

**Precautions:** Gown (all persons in unit), gloves (all persons in unit), mask (all persons in unit), and protective eyewear. Gloves must be removed and sanitizer gel used after touching the patient or potentially contaminated articles. Hands must be washed as soon as possible after transport is complete. Articles contaminated with infective material must be discarded or decontaminated. Patient compartment must be disinfected after the patient is removed.

#### Respiratory Isolation

**Diseases:** Epiglottitis, Measles, Meningitis (H, flu/Meningococcal), Mumps, Pertussis, Pneumonia, *Tuberculosis*, SARS, etc.

**Precautions:** Gloves (all persons in unit), HEPA particulate mask (all persons in unit), protective eyewear (all persons in unit), mask on patient if coughing, when possible. Gloves must be removed and sanitizer gel used after touching the patient or potentially contaminated articles. Hands must be washed as soon as possible after transport is complete. Articles contaminated with infective material must be discarded or decontaminated. Patient compartment must be aired out five (5) minutes after patient is removed and any surfaces contaminated with infective material must be disinfected.

#### Blood and Body Fluid Precautions

**Diseases:** AIDS, HIV positive, Hepatitis-B, Hepatitis non-A/non-B, tick fever, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, Malaria, Rat Bite Fever, Syphilis, etc.

**Precautions:** Gown (all persons in unit), gloves (all persons in unit), mask (only if possibility of the patient's blood or body fluids to be aerosolized or splashed), and protective eyewear. Gloves must be removed and sanitizer gel used after touching the patient or potentially contaminated articles. Hands must be washed as soon as possible after transport is complete. Articles contaminated with infective material must be discarded or decontaminated. Patient compartment must be disinfected after patient is removed.

#### Drainage and Secretion Precautions

**Diseases:** Abscess (unknown etiology), draining wounds, major burns, skin infections, Anthrax, Cellulitis, Gangrene, Cytomegalovirus, Endometriosis, Herpes Simplex, Herpes Zoster, Bubonic Plague, Pneumonia, Scarlet Fever, Syphilis, Tuberculosis, Chicken Pox, etc.

**Precautions:** Gown (all persons having contact with patient or patient articles), gloves (all persons in unit), protective eyewear (all persons in unit). Gloves must be removed and sanitizer gel used after touching the patient or potentially contaminated articles. Hands must be washed as soon as possible after transport is complete. Articles contaminated with infective material must be discarded or decontaminated. All surfaces

contaminated with infective material must be disinfected after the patient is removed.

#### Enteric Precautions

**Diseases:** Amebic Dysentary, Cholera, Diarrhea, Encephalitis, Salmonella/Shigella Poisoning, Hepatitis-A, Viral Meningitis, Poliomyelitis, Typhoid Fever, Viral Pericarditis, etc.

**Precautions:** Gown (all persons having contact with patient or patient articles), gloves (all persons in unit), protective eyewear (all persons in unit). Gloves must be removed and sanitizer gel used after touching patient or potentially contaminated articles. Hands must be washed as soon as possible after transport is complete. Articles contaminated with infective material must be discarded or decontaminated. All surfaces contaminated with infective material must be disinfected after the patient is removed.

### 5. Guidelines For Specific Medical Procedures

#### Endotracheal Intubation / Combitube Insertion

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.

#### Suctioning

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.

#### Intravenous Access

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### Needle Thoracostomy

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.

#### Mouth-to-Mouth Ventilation

**Employees should not perform direct mouth-to-mouth ventilation at any time.**

Other adjunctive devices such as pocket masks, bag-valve-mask devices, or demand valves should be utilized in lieu of making direct skin contact with patients with unknown infectious disease status.

#### Mouth-to-Mask Ventilation

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.

#### Bag-Valve-Mask Ventilation

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.

#### Intraosseous Insertion

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### OB Deliveries

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves, mask, gown, and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves, mask, gown, and protective eyewear.

#### Bleeding Control with spurting blood

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves, gowns, mask, and protective eyewear. When bleeding is controlled, only gloves are required.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves, gowns, mask, and protective eyewear. When bleeding is controlled, only gloves are required.

#### Bleeding Control with minimal bleeding

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### Cariopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### Administering Intramuscular (IM), Subcutaneous (SQ), and Sublingual (SL) Medications

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### Administering Nebulized Medications

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### Administering Intravenous Medications (IVP)

- Personnel performing this procedure must wear gloves.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### Arterial Blood Gas Sampling (Restricted to MD or RT)

- CCP performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### Blood Transfusion

- CCP performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### Chest Tubes

- CCP performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### Emergency Escharotomy

- CCP performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### Homodynamic Monitoring (Including: CVP monitoring, Arterial Line/BP monitoring, Swan Ganz monitoring (must have Critical Care Nurses))

- CCP performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### ICP (Increased Intra-Cranial Pressure) Monitoring

- CCP performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### Ventricular Assist Device

- CCP performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### I-Stat

- CCP performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### Pericardiocentesis

- CCP performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

#### Temporary Cardiac Pacing

- CCP performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

Tracheostomy Care

- CCP performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

Venous Access Devices

- CCP performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.

Ventilator

- CCP performing this procedure must wear gloves and protective eyewear.
- Personnel assisting with this procedure must wear gloves.