

EMS ENTRY INTO UMMMC WHEN PPE IS REQUIRED

Purpose: To ensure that good infection control measures are maintained in clinical environments and passageways in the medical center during patient transport from outside the medical center to inpatient units while also taking care to protect our prehospital colleagues who transport our patients.

Scope: This procedure addresses EMS transports arriving at UMMMC to deliver patients to inpatient units including Intensive Care Units and floor beds. It applies to patients who have a known or suspected infectious disease requiring caregivers to wear PPE while providing care, including during transport. This procedure does not apply to transports into the UMMMC Emergency Departments.

Procedure:

- 1) EMS agencies are requested, when feasible, to designate one member of the crew to be a “clean” person. This person should perform hand hygiene and don a clean pair of gloves before entering the hospital. This crew member should be responsible for interacting with the environment, including touching doors, elevator buttons, etc. en route to the patient bed.
- 2) When possible, if an escort is necessary the EMS crew can contact the accepting unit by phone so at the time of transport, an ICU/floor staff member will come to the ED or helipad when the ambulance or air ambulance arrives. This staff member will then escort the EMS crew and patient to the receiving floor or ICU unit.
- 3) It is recognized that OEMS protocols require EMS crew members to maintain contact with both hands on a patient stretcher while in motion. It is also recognized that the above step may not be possible in cases where the patient is critically ill requiring both care givers to continue interventions while in transit.
- 4) When a patient is delivered to their destination, EMS crew members will be asked to doff their gloves and gown and perform hand hygiene prior to exiting the patient room.
- 5) EMS crew will be provided with PPE to replace that which they doffed in the room.
- 6) EMS crew will exit the hospital and return to their vehicles where they can re-don PPE and decontaminate their vehicle according to their protocol.