

Interstate Interfacility Transport of a Patient with Discussion-Based Exercise

After-Action Report/Improvement Plan

The After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) aligns exercise objectives with preparedness doctrine to include the National Preparedness Goal and related frameworks and guidance. Exercise information required for preparedness reporting and trend analysis is included; users are encouraged to add additional sections as needed to support their own organizational needs. This publication was made possible by Grant Number 1 IDSEP160033-01-00 from ASPR. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the HHS.

EXERCISE OVERVIEW

Exercise Name	Interstate Interfacility Transport of a Patient with Discussion-Based Exercise
Exercise Dates	
Scope	This exercise is a discussion-based exercise planned for at . Exercise play is limited to
Mission Area(s)	Response and Recovery
Core Capabilities	
Objectives	
Threat or Hazard	Natural Hazard: Disease Outbreak
Scenario	A 35-year old patient who works in a BioSafety Level 4 lab presents at a local hospital with complaints of fever, cough, nausea, and headache. Lab work confirms that the patient has been infected with . The treating physician notifies the State Department of Public Health that the patient needs to be transferred to a facility that is fully prepared to treat a patient with this type of infection. The decision is made to transfer the patient to a Regional Ebola and Special Pathogen Treatment Center.
Sponsor	
Participating Organizations	
Point of Contact	

ANALYSIS OF CORE CAPABILITIES

Aligning exercise objectives and core capabilities provides a consistent taxonomy for evaluation that transcends individual exercises to support preparedness reporting and trend analysis. Table 1 includes the exercise objectives, aligned core capabilities, and performance ratings for each core capability as observed during the exercise and determined by the evaluation team.

Objective	Core Capability	Performed without Challenges (P)	Performed with Some Challenges (S)	Performed with Major Challenges (M)	Unable to be Performed (U)
Identify opportunities to strengthen the capability for the interfacility transport of special pathogen patients.	Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services				
Describe how patient and provider safety is maintained throughout the transport operation.	Environmental Response/Health and Safety				
Define the Incident Command/Unified Command structure used for managing special pathogen transport operations.	Operational Coordination				
Assess capabilities for effective communications with all interfacility special pathogen patient transport stakeholders during the entire transport.	Operational Communications				
Evaluate the capability of EMS to provide required patient care based on state and local policies and protocols.	Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services				
Identify the process for selecting personal protection equipment (PPE) for each transport mission with emphasis on ensuring that selection is based on the modes of disease	Environmental Response/Health and Safety				

Objective	Core Capability	Performed without Challenges (P)	Performed with Some Challenges (S)	Performed with Major Challenges (M)	Unable to be Performed (U)
transmission.					
Evaluate capabilities for medical monitoring of transport crew members post-transport.	Health and Social Services				
Assess policies that are in place for the safe management of infectious waste.	Environmental Response/Health and Safety				
OPTIONAL OBJECTIVES- SELECT THOSE THAT YOUR JURISDICTION INCLUDED IN THE EXERCISE					
Evaluate the capability to manage a patient who decompensates en-route from the sending facility to the receiving facility in light of cut laws and protocols.	Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services				
Assess the capability to transport patients with suspect or confirmed special pathogen infection who fall into a special population category, such as pediatric patients, pregnant women, and/or individuals who utilize service animals.	Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services				
Develop solutions for both anticipated and unanticipated challenges that may be encountered during transport operations (e.g. vehicle breakdown, patient decompensates, EMS personnel becomes ill en-route).	Planning				

Objective	Core Capability	Performed without Challenges (P)	Performed with Some Challenges (S)	Performed with Major Challenges (M)	Unable to be Performed (U)
Identify the stakeholders, including the State EMS Office, that are involved in the decision-making process for all aspects of special pathogen patient interfacility transport planning.	Planning				
Identify capabilities for just-in-time education and training for operational personnel as a critical component of the transport execution plan.	Planning				
Define the public information strategy that will be utilized to manage the media for the duration of special pathogen patient transport operation planning and execution.	Public Information and Warning				
Identify licensure laws that may impact interstate transport.	Planning				
Identify the process for the conduct of the transport law enforcement threat assessment to determine the need for a law enforcement escort and the level of support required.	On-scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement				
Evaluate the ability to maintain patient privacy and compliance with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act	Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services				

Objective	Core Capability	Performed without Challenges (P)	Performed with Some Challenges (S)	Performed with Major Challenges (M)	Unable to be Performed (U)
(HIPAA) regulations throughout the transport.					
Identify any differences between notification and coordination procedures for intrastate and interstate transports.	Planning				
Ratings Definitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performed without Challenges (P): The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s) and did not negatively impact the performance of other activities. Performance of this activity did not contribute to additional health and/or safety risks for the public or for emergency workers, and it was conducted in accordance with applicable plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and laws. Performed with Some Challenges (S): The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s) and did not negatively impact the performance of other activities. Performance of this activity did not contribute to additional health and/or safety risks for the public or for emergency workers, and it was conducted in accordance with applicable plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and laws. However, opportunities to enhance effectiveness and/or efficiency were identified. Performed with Major Challenges (M): The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s), but some or all of the following were observed: demonstrated performance had a negative impact on the performance of other activities; contributed to additional health and/or safety risks for the public or for emergency workers; and/or was not conducted in accordance with applicable plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and laws. Unable to be Performed (U): The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were not performed in a manner that achieved the objective(s). 					

Table 1. Summary of Core Capability Performance

The following sections provide an overview of the performance related to each exercise objective and associated core capability, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement.

Objective 1: Identify opportunities to strengthen the capability for the interfacility transport of special pathogen patients.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

Core Capability: Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services

Strengths

The capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

Strength 1:

Strength 2:

Strength 3:

Areas for Improvement

The following areas require improvement to achieve the full capability level:

Area for Improvement 1:

Reference:

Analysis:

Area for Improvement 2:

Reference:

Analysis:

Objective 2: Describe how patient and provider safety is maintained throughout the transport operation.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

Core Capability: Environmental Response/Health and Safety

Strengths

The capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

Strength 1:

Strength 2:

Strength 3:

Areas for Improvement

The following areas require improvement to achieve the full capability level:

Area for Improvement 1:

Reference:

Analysis:

Area for Improvement 2:

Reference:

Analysis:

Objective 3: Define the Incident Command/Unified Command structure used for managing special pathogen transport operations.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

Core Capability: Operational Coordination

Strengths

The capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

Strength 1:

Strength 2:

Strength 3:

Areas for Improvement

The following areas require improvement to achieve the full capability level:

Area for Improvement 1:

Reference:

Analysis:

Area for Improvement 2:

Reference:

Analysis:

Objective 4: Assess capabilities for effective communications with all interfacility special pathogen patient transport stakeholders during the entire transport.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

Core Capability: Operational Communications

Strengths

The _____ capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

Strength 1:

Strength 2:

Strength 3:

Areas for Improvement

The following areas require improvement to achieve the full capability level:

Area for Improvement 1:

Reference:

Analysis:

Area for Improvement 2:

Reference:

Analysis:

Objective 5: Evaluate the capability of EMS to provide required patient care based on state and local policies and protocols.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

Core Capability: Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services

Strengths

The capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

Strength 1:

Strength 2:

Strength 3:

Areas for Improvement

The following areas require improvement to achieve the full capability level:

Area for Improvement 1:

Reference:

Analysis:

Area for Improvement 2:

Reference:

Analysis:

Objective 6: Identify the process for selecting personal protection equipment (PPE) for each transport mission with emphasis on ensuring that selection is based on the modes of disease transmission.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

Core Capability: Environmental Response/Health and Safety

Strengths

The capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

Strength 1:

Strength 2:

Strength 3:

Areas for Improvement

The following areas require improvement to achieve the full capability level:

Area for Improvement 1:

Reference:

Analysis:

Area for Improvement 2:

Reference:

Analysis:

Objective 7: Evaluate capabilities for medical monitoring of transport crew members post-transport.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

Core Capability: Health and Social Services

Strengths

The capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

Strength 1:

Strength 2:

Strength 3:

Areas for Improvement

The following areas require improvement to achieve the full capability level:

Area for Improvement 1:

Reference:

Analysis:

Area for Improvement 2:

Reference:

Analysis:

Objective 8: Assess policies that are in place for the safe management of infectious waste.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

Core Capability: Environmental Response/Health and Safety

Strengths

The _____ capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

Strength 1:

Strength 2:

Strength 3:

Areas for Improvement

The following areas require improvement to achieve the full capability level:

Area for Improvement 1:

Reference:

Analysis:

Area for Improvement 2:

Reference:

Analysis:

For each "Optional Objective" included in the exercise, complete the below.

Objective:

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

Core Capability:

Strengths

The _____ capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

Strength 1:

Strength 2:

Strength 3:

Areas for Improvement

The following areas require improvement to achieve the full capability level:

Area for Improvement 1:

Reference:

Analysis:

Area for Improvement 2:

Reference:

Analysis:

APPENDIX A: IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This IP has been developed specifically for
conducted on

as a result of

Core Capability	Issue/Area for Improvement	Corrective Action	Capability Element ¹	Primary Responsible Organization	Organization POC	Start Date	Completion Date
Core Capability 1: Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services							
Core Capability 2: Environmental Response/Health and Safety							
Core Capability 3: Operational Coordination							

¹ Capability Elements are: Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training, or Exercise.

Core Capability 4: Operational Communications							
Core Capability 5: Health and Social Services							
INCLUDE BELOW CORE CAPABILITIES AS APPROPRIATE FOR THE OPTIONAL OBJECTIVES INCLUDED IN THE EXERCISE							
Core Capability 6: Planning							
Core Capability 7: Public Information and Warning							

Core Capability 8: On-scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement							

APPENDIX B: EXERCISE PARTICIPANTS

Participating Organizations
Local
State
Federal
Private Sector