



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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GUIDANCE FOR EMS PROVIDER(S) TO TRANSPORT INFECTIOUS DISEASE PATIENTS October 20, 2014

Encourage Provider to read the most current CDC's "Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for Management of Patients with Known or Suspected Ebola Virus Disease in the United States."

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-emergency-medical-services-systems-911-public-safety-answering-points-management-patients-known-suspected-united-states.html>

Q – My EMS agency wants to use a currently authorized vehicle to move a suspected Ebola patient and my EMS agency would like to remove supplies, equipment, and medications from the vehicle that are not needed to accomplish the transport?

A – DSHS will allow an EMS provider to remove supplies, equipment, and medications that would not be needed to accomplish the transport under the following circumstances:

1. The ambulance must have sufficient and appropriate personal protective equipment that is readily available for use by the transporting EMS personnel.
2. The ambulance must have sufficient and appropriate biohazard waste disposal supplies that are readily available for use by EMS personnel.
3. The ambulance must have communication capabilities that will enable the EMS provider's medical director or designated online medical control to be in constant communication with EMS personnel during the transport so that appropriate and continuous medical supervision can be provided.
4. The EMS provider's medical director must sign and date the ambulance's list of interim equipment, supplies and medications, which is appropriate for the transport of a suspected Ebola patient. A copy of the signed/dated interim lists must be placed in the ambulance prior to transport of a suspected Ebola patient and must be maintained in the vehicle during transport.
5. Before the transport of a suspected Ebola patient, the EMS provider's medical director must sign and date, an interim policy/protocol that is appropriate for the care and transport of a suspected Ebola patient.

6. Before the transport, notification must be provided to the EMS personnel that will be performing the transport, about the EMS medical director's approval of interim equipment, supplies and medication lists and the interim policy/protocol at whatever appropriate life support level that is needed for the care and transport of the suspected Ebola patient; and, prior to the transport of the patient, the EMS personnel performing the transport must be given ample time to review the interim lists and policy/protocol and be provided ample opportunity to discuss the transport and care of the patient with the medical director.
7. Any ambulance that is used for this type of transport must be properly decontaminated in accordance with the most current CDC guidelines before it is returned to normal service.
8. Once the ambulance is returned to normal service, the vehicle, along with its supplies, equipment, medications and protocols/policy, must be in compliance with all current rules and regulations.

Q – Do I need to notify DSHS, if my EMS provider removes from a currently authorized ambulance, certain equipment, supplies and medications, due to the development and implementation of interim equipment, supply and medication lists, and a policy/protocol that is approved for the transport of an Ebola patient by the provider's medical director?

A – No, DSHS requires that you maintain these records and provide them if requested.