

Interfacility Transport of a Patient with a Special Pathogen Infection Transport Plan Template Executive Summary

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) received funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) to create a template for use as a resource by states as they develop and refine plans for transporting a patient infected with a special pathogen from one facility to another. NASEMSO was charged with ensuring that the resource developed meets the needs of states with large urban population centers, predominately rural populations, and a combination of urban and rural populations.

Methodology:

NASEMSO started the project by conducting a literature review to better understand the work that had already been done on this topic and identify best and promising practices learned through real-world transports and exercise simulations. Next, an Expert Panel comprised of 12 stakeholder agencies and ASPR representation was convened to identify key content for inclusion in the template and unresolved challenges that states must work through in order to be prepared to move a special pathogen patient between facilities. Finally, NASEMSO assembled a five member Work Group of stakeholders to develop the actual template.

Results:

Comprehensive Preparedness Guidelines 101 was used as a model for the template structure. Each of the template's 20 sections is comprised of a brief description of the section's purpose, as well as key information and considerations that states should think about incorporating into their special pathogen patient interfacility transport plans. The appendices section contains a list of resources and supporting documents that may be useful to inform content for individual plans.

The template identifies pertinent issues related to transport between frontline hospitals, assessment hospitals, state-designated treatment centers, and/or Regional Ebola and Special Pathogen Treatment Centers. Both ground and fixed wing air ambulance transport are addressed, as well as intricacies that must be taken into account when the transport route crosses jurisdictional and state lines. Adult and pediatric patient considerations are addressed. Responsibilities for key stakeholder agencies, which includes the State Health Department, State EMS Office, federal partners, sending and receiving facilities, law enforcement agencies, crew change locations, and impacted airports, are identified.

Template Sections

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction and Overview
3. Promulgation Document and Signatures
4. Approval and Implementation
5. Record of Changes
6. Record of Distribution
7. Plan Purpose
8. Planning Scope
9. Situation Overview
10. Planning Assumptions
11. Concept of Operations
 - a. Trigger points for activation
 - b. Process for determining patient placement
 - c. Ground transport
 - i. Transport logistics
 - ii. Staffing
 - iii. Crew change locations and logistics
 - iv. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) considerations
 - v. Equipment requirements
 - vi. Patient treatments
 - vii. Security/Law Enforcement
 - d. Air transport
 - e. Pediatrics
 - f. Management of a PPE breach
 - g. Waste Management
 - h. Decontamination
 - i. Mortuary affairs
 - j. Post-transport medical monitoring of crew
 - k. Patient privacy
12. Assignment of Responsibilities
13. Direction, Control, Coordination
14. Communications
15. Education, Training, Exercises
16. Logistics and Resources
17. Administration and Finance
18. Plan Development and Maintenance
19. Authorities and References
20. Appendices