(A) Policy Statement

Law Enforcement, Funeral Service Workers and Emergency Care Workers (ECW) who believe they have had a significant exposure to communicable diseases during the performances of their professional duties have the right to obtain information regarding the presence of a contagious or infectious disease from the health care facility to which the patient was transported.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To comply with Ohio law which provides for the rights of exposed workers, who have sustained an exposure to contagious or infectious disease, and to facilitate appropriate medical management.

(C) Procedure

(1) Exposed workers who believe they have suffered significant exposure through contact with a patient who has been transported to University of Toledo Medical Center will contact the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Department to request in writing, to be notified of the results of any test performed on the patient to determine the presence of a contagious or infectious disease. These include but are not limited to: Meningitis, HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and Tuberculosis.

(2) The written request will include:

   (a) Name, address and contact information of the exposed worker submitting the report

   (b) Exposed workers employer or other associated entity they were representing

   (c) Date, time, location, and manner of exposure

   (d) Name, address, date of birth or other identification of the patient involved

(3) The IPC staff will contact the exposed worker to determine what potential exposure occurred and to review the occupational exposure form submitted.
Disclosure and Testing for Communicable Diseases
To Members of Law Enforcement Agencies and
Emergency Care Workers (ECW) Under the Ohio Revised Code, Section 3701
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(4) The IPC staff will verify if the patient was treated at the University of Toledo Medical Center and verify diagnosis, testing, and results.

(5) If exposure has occurred, the IPC staff will notify the patient's attending physician that results will be released to the exposed worker and to public health if indicated.

(6) Verbal notification of the presence of a contagious or infectious disease will be given immediately after request, followed by written notification within three days and will include:

   (a) Disease, signs and symptoms, date of exposure, incubation period and mode of transmission

   (b) Precautions necessary to prevent transmission to other persons

   (c) Recommended prophylaxis, treatment and counseling

   (d) Notification will not include the name of the patient

(7) The IPC office will maintain the records of information released to ECW under the authorization of the Ohio Revised Code.

(8) The source patient will be counseled by his/her physician after notification of test results whether or not informed consent was obtained.

Resources

