



Ambulatory Clinic Policy and Procedure

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| Title: | Waiting Room Infection Control | Policy Number: | 7.04 |
| | | Version Number: | 8 |
| Regulation Reference: | CDC, APIC, Joint Commission IC.4.10 | Effective Date: | 12/2015 |
| | | Original Approval: | 2/1993 |

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) ambulatory clinics to properly manage individuals with known or suspected infectious diseases to reduce waiting room exposure and prevent the spread of infections.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all TTUHSC Ambulatory clinics operated through its schools.

PROCEDURE:

1. Rapid identification of patients with possible communicable diseases upon arrival at check in is the goal so that they may be appropriately isolated in order to protect other patients and staff.
2. At time of arrival to the clinics, patients are asked by Patient Services Specialist staff if they have recently traveled to or from an area outside of the United States where they may have been exposed to or been in contact with persons diagnosed with a communicable disease (i.e. Ebola or MERS). Patients are also asked if they currently have a fever, severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting or diarrhea, abdomen pain or bleeding. If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," then PSS staff immediately contact a nurse to come and escort the patient to an exam room in the clinic to be isolated until further information is obtained by clinical staff.
3. Visual identification of any of the following patient symptoms or concerns should alert Patient Services Specialist staff to implement appropriate interventions and promptly notify nurse/tech staff to take the patient immediately back to an exam room:
 - a. Rash
 - b. Persistent cough
 - c. Lice
 - d. Draining open sores and wounds
4. See [7.02, Exposure Control Plan/Isolation Systems: Standard Precautions and Transmission-Based Precautions](#).
5. Known or suspected infectious individuals should be placed in an exam room with door closed. (i.e., MRSA, TB, Varicella for example).
6. If there is delay in taking a patient to an exam room, front desk staff may ask the patient to wear a mask and offer tissue.
7. Immuno-compromised patients should be placed in an exam room as soon as possible.

APPROVAL AUTHORITY:

This policy shall be recommended for approval by the Joint Ambulatory Policy Committee to the Council of Deans.

RESPONSIBILITY AND REVISIONS:

It is the responsibility of the Joint Ambulatory Policy Committee to review and initiate necessary revisions based on collaboration and input by and through Quality Improvement/Performance Improvement, Risk Management and the Office of Institutional Compliance.

RIGHT TO CHANGE POLICY:

TTUHSC reserves the right to interpret, change, modify, amend or rescind this policy in whole or in part at any time to reflect changes in policy and/or law.

CERTIFICATION:

This policy was approved by the Council of Deans on December 3, 2015.