PHARMACIST Guidelines for Ebola

What to do if a sick patient comes to the pharmacy

1. Evaluate the Patient

**Does the patient have the following symptoms**:  
- Fever (>38C / 100.4F)
- Severe Headache
- Muscle Pain
- Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Abdominal Pain
- Unexplained Hemorrhage

2. If **YES** to BOTH Criteria

- **Limit exposure by keeping distance**
  - Close contact is defined as prolonged exposure within 3 feet.
  - Identify location to isolate patient while waiting for transport to hospital.
  - While it’s very unlikely that a symptomatic patient with Ebola would present to a pharmacy, ensure patient is kept at least 3 feet away from customers and staff.

- **Refer patient to hospital emergency room and notify ADPH**
  - Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) phone number: 1-800-338-8374. The Health Department will notify CDC.
  - Complete EVD Consultation Record  
    (http://www.adph.org/ebola/assets/AL_EVD_Consultation_Form.pdf)  
    and fax to 334-206-3734 or email to CDFax@ADPH.state.AL.US.
  - Compile a list of healthcare workers and patients that may have come in contact with the patient, along with their personal contacts.
  - Review all contact with patient with the Health Department. They will evaluate and decide on further monitoring or testing.
  - Notify hospital emergency room before transport and arrange for transport via non-public transportation or ambulance.
2. If YES to BOTH Criteria (continued)

- Notify your company Pharmacy District Manager or risk management program

  - Name & phone number to contact: _____________________________________________________

- Disinfect surfaces, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water

  - Use 10% bleach or disinfectant that is labeled as effective against unenveloped viruses such as Norovirus\(^6\).
  - Limited studies have shown that regular cleaning in a healthcare setting results in undetectable viral RNA on surfaces even during an active outbreak response\(^2\).
  - If cleanup of bodily fluids is required, ensure that safe procedures are used\(^6\).
    1. Block off the area until cleanup and disinfection is complete. No visitors or unprotected staff members should be able to access the area.
    2. Use appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves, gown, eye protection, face shield).
    3. Wipe up the bodily fluids as much as possible with paper towel or other absorbent material.
    4. Gently pour disinfectant (or 10% bleach solution) onto all contaminated areas.
    5. Let disinfectant remain on contaminated area for 20 minutes and then wipe up remaining bleach solution.
    6. Remove gloves and place in a biohazard bag with all other soiled cleaning materials.
    7. Double bag and secure biohazard bags in a puncture-resistant container. This material is considered hazardous material and must be transported and discarded properly\(^7\).
    8. Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water.

3. Additional Resources — Stay Informed

1. WHO Global Alert and Response: Ebola
   www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/

2. CDC Ebola Virus Disease
   www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/

3. National Libraries of Medicine Disaster Information Management Research Center

FOOTNOTES

1. CDC. Checklist for Patients Being Evaluated for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the United States
2. CDC. Review of Human-to-Human Transmission of Ebola Virus
3. Alabama Department of Public Health Contact information: Phone 800-338-8374
4. CDC. Algorithm for Evaluation of the Returned Traveler
5. EPA listing of disinfectants effective against Norovirus
6. CDC. Interim Guidance for Environmental Infection Control in Hospitals for Ebola Virus.
7. Department of Transportation Guidance for Transporting Ebola Contaminated Items, a Category A Infectious Substance