

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Illinois Hospitals

FROM: LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, Director

DATE: October 17, 2014

SUBJECT: Guidance for the Disposal and Transport of Potentially Infected Ebola Medical Waste Generated in Health Care Facilities

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Following is guidance for the transportation and disposal of potentially infected medical waste from patients with Ebola virus disease (EVD). This guidance has been developed in cooperation with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

### Disposable materials:

- Potentially infectious medical waste (PIMW), including disposable materials (e.g., any single-use PPE, cleaning cloths, wipes, single-use microfiber cloths, gowns, linens, food service) privacy curtains and other textiles, generated in connection with diagnoses and treatment activities need to be appropriately disposed of after their use in the patient room.
- These materials should be placed in leak-proof containment and discarded appropriately. To minimize contamination of the exterior of the waste bag, place this bag in a rigid waste receptacle designed for this use. <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/medical-waste-management.html>
- Incineration or autoclaving as a waste treatment process is effective in eliminating viral infectivity and provides waste minimization. Facilities with the capacity to process PIMW on-site must demonstrate efficacy standards of treatment facilities per IEPA regulations ([35 Illinois Administrative Code: Subtitle M](#)).
- All PIMW must be treated to eliminate the infectious potential prior to disposal. If offsite treatment is necessary, then strict compliance with the DOT's Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR, 49 CFR, Parts 171-180) is required. Untreated PIMW can only be transported by an IEPA permitted waste hauler to a permitted transfer, storage or treatment facility. More information can be found at: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/waste-mgmt/potentially-infectious-medical-waste.html>. Lists of permitted waste haulers and transfer, storage or treatment facilities are available at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/regulatory-programs/transportation-permits/> and <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/waste-mgmt/facility-tables/pimw-facilities.html>.

### Transporting PIMW by an IEPA permitted hauler:

- The Ebola virus is classified as a Category A infectious substance under the HMR. These regulations cover such areas as packaging, marking, labeling, documentation, security, transportation, etc. Any item transported offsite for disposal by an IEPA permitted hauler that is contaminated or suspected of being contaminated with a Category A infectious substance must be packaged and transported in accordance with 49 CFR 173.196 or under a special DOT permit. This includes medical equipment, sharps, linens, and

used health care products (such as soiled absorbent pads or dressings, kidney-shaped emesis pans, portable toilets, used Personal Protection Equipment (gowns, masks, gloves, goggles, face shields, respirators, booties, etc.) or byproducts of cleaning) contaminated or suspected of being contaminated with a Category A infectious substance. Additional information can be found at the U.S Department of Transportation links below:

- [http://phmsa.dot.gov/pv\\_obj\\_cache/pv\\_obj\\_id\\_54AC1BCBF0DFBE298024C4C700569893C2582700/filename/Transporting\\_Infectious\\_Substances\\_brochure.pdf](http://phmsa.dot.gov/pv_obj_cache/pv_obj_id_54AC1BCBF0DFBE298024C4C700569893C2582700/filename/Transporting_Infectious_Substances_brochure.pdf)
  - Class 6, Division 6.2—Definitions and exceptions (49 CFR 173.134): [http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=1483d3ee3a3f2bfbd8f83f4d004804e&n=pt49.2.173&r=PART&ty=HTML#se49.2.173\\_1134](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=1483d3ee3a3f2bfbd8f83f4d004804e&n=pt49.2.173&r=PART&ty=HTML#se49.2.173_1134)
  - Category A infectious substances (49 CFR 173.196): <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=2a97f2935677211e1785ac643163d2a9&node=49:2.1.1.3.10.5.25.33&rgn=div8>
- Wastes generated during delivery of care to Ebola virus-infected patients must be packaged and transported in accordance U.S. DOT Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR, 49 C.F.R., Parts 171-180). A special permit from U.S. DOT is required to allow alternative packaging from the requirements of the HMR for transportation. In addition to the alternative packaging, additional preparation and operation controls will apply to ensure an equivalent level of safety. Special permits are issued to the individual companies that apply, to ensure that each holder is fit to conduct the activity authorized. More information is available at U.S. DOT website: <http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/question-and-answer>

Once a patient with suspected EVD (e.g., patients under investigation) is determined to not be infected with the Ebola virus, their waste materials no longer need to be managed as if contaminated with Ebola virus.