

**REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDING MEDICAL ORDERS
BLS**

SMO: Viral Hemorrhagic Fever

Revised Date:

Overview: Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers are diseases caused by viruses of four distinct families: arenaviruses, filoviruses, bunyaviruses and flaviviruses. Some types can cause relatively mild illnesses; many can cause severe, life-threatening disease. Transmission can occur from contact with infected animals and animal body fluids (urine, fecal matter, saliva or other body excretions), arthropod vectors, such as being bitten by infected mosquitoes or ticks, person-to-person transfer from close contact, or body fluid exposure. The incubation period ranges from 2 days to 3 weeks, depending upon the etiology of the Viral Hemorrhagic Fever.

INFORMATION NEEDED

- History of the current illness
- Any indications of bleeding from body orifices
- Recent exposure to areas with high populations of mosquitoes and/or ticks

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS

- **Specific signs and symptoms may vary by the type of Viral Hemorrhagic Fever, but initial signs and symptoms often include: marked fever, fatigue, dizziness, muscle aches, loss of strength and exhaustion.**
- **Patients with severe cases of Viral Hemorrhagic Fever often show signs of bleeding under the skin, in internal organs, or from body orifices like the mouth, eyes or ears. Although patients may bleed from many sites around the body, patients rarely die because of blood loss. Severely ill patient cases also may show shock, nervous system malfunction, coma, delirium and seizures. Some types of Viral Hemorrhagic Fever are associated with kidney failure.**

BLS

- Face shields, double gloves, impermeable gowns, N-95 masks shoe coverings must be worn when in contact with the patient
- Isolation of the patient as much as possible, using sheets and masking of the patient
- Assess the patient for any other medical or trauma issues
- Supportive care

Documentation of adherence to protocol:

- History related to the illness
- Isolation procedures utilized for EMS personnel and patient

Medical Control Contact Criteria

- Contact Medical Control if there is any suspicion of the patient being exposed to this disease of showing signs and symptoms of this disease.

PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS

- It is imperative to remember that this disease can be transferred from person-to-person close contact or by body fluid exposure. All isolation techniques must be taken to minimize EMS personnel exposure.

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