Proper Transport of Patients With COVID-19 Within the Hospital

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COVID-19 Resources

Proper Transport of Patients With COVID-19 Within the Hospital

• Communication, communication, communication
• Why is transport necessary?
• Where are you transporting to?
• How long will it last?
• Planning at origin
• Planning at destination

COVID-19 Resources
The Basic Questions

• Why is transport necessary?
  • Emergency medical procedures, testing (eg, CT, MRI)

• Where are you transporting to?
  • Radiology, OR, IR
  • Other procedures, testing in the patient’s room

• How long will it last?
  • Shortest route
  • Route planning, floor maps
  • Least amount of exposure throughout the hospital

Planning at Origin

• Healthcare personnel in the receiving area should be notified in advance.
• Route planning: Use predetermined routes. Clear hallways.
• Nonintubated patients should wear a face mask to contain secretions and should be covered with a clean sheet.
• Intubated patients should have a HEPA filter inserted between the bag-valve-mask breathing device and the patient.

HEPA Filters

• Filters can be placed on ventilators just prior to the exhalation valve.
  • This prevents unfiltered expired gases from entering the room.
• For manual resuscitation devices, a filter can be placed on the expiratory port, prior to the PEEP valve.
  • This ensures that the expiratory gases are filtered before entering the room.

Preparing for Transport

• Transporters should wear recommended PPE (gloves, gown, face mask) and eye protection (goggles or disposable face shield that covers the front and sides of the face).
• After patient transfer to the transport modality (and before exiting the room), transporters should remove their gown, gloves, and eye protection and perform hand hygiene.
• Patient wearing face mask: no recommendation for PPE but face mask use by the transporter (recommended).
• Additional PPE if there is an anticipated need to provide medical assistance during transport (eg, helping the patient replace a dislodged face mask).
Planning at Destination

• Receiving personnel (e.g., in radiology) and the transporter (if assisting with transfer) should perform hand hygiene and wear all recommended PPE.

• If still wearing original respirator or face mask, the transporter should take care to avoid self-contamination when donning and doffing the remainder of the recommended PPE.


Summary

• The ICU team contacts the destination and receiving area before transport.

• Patients should be transported only for procedures and studies deemed essential for patient care.

• Use transport routes and clear hallways if needed.

• Intubated patients should have a HEPA filter inserted between the bag-valve-mask breathing device and the patient.

• Patients who are not ventilated should wear a surgical mask.