3.05 - Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Protocol for Pediatrics

Purpose

To prevent transmission of an EID to other patients, visitors, volunteers, and healthcare workers (HCWs) by patients admitted with an EID.

Audience

HCWs in the Emergency Department (ED), units where pediatric patients are hospitalized and ancillary departments that provide care to pediatric patients (≤ 18 years of age).

Policy Statement:

I. Children with a possible EID will be screened in the ED at the screening station along with parents/guardians.
   A. Members of a family, age ≥16 years, who have a negative screen for an EID will be asked to wait outside the negative pressure zone.
   B. Children ≤ 15 years of age, who have a negative screen for the EID may accompany parents/guardians who have a positive EID screen if there are no other adult family members with a negative EID screen present outside the negative pressure zone.
      1. Children, ≤ 15 years of age, who have a negative screen will don an N-95 mask prior to accompanying their parents/guardians into negative pressure zone. Younger children who do not have a good fitting with an N-95 mask will wear a surgical facemask.
   C. Patients and members of their family who have a positive screen for an EID will be escorted to the waiting room in the negative pressure zone of the ED.
      1. At least one parent/guardian will remain with children ≤ 15 years of age with a positive EID screen who are assigned to the negative pressure zone. Parents/guardians who screened negative for the EID will don an N-95 mask prior to accompanying their children into the negative pressure zone.
   D. Evaluation and disposition of patients.
      1. Pediatric patients will be transported to the Radiology area for x-ray during the evaluation process following the procedures in policy 3.3 (Transportation of Patients with an Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) or a Possible EID).
      2. Children with an EID who can be managed as outpatients will be sent home with a parent/guardian or family member.
      3. Admission of children with an EID.
         a. Children will be admitted following the procedures in Policy 3.6 (Admission of Patients with an Emerging Infectious

Disease (EID) to the Hospital) except that the admitting staff will obtain parental/guardian signatures for authorization for medical care outside of the child's room on the pediatric floor without direct contact with the child.

b. HCWs will be assigned to care for EID patients and will not care for non EID patients.

c. If more EID patients are admitted, they will be admitted to the same unit as the first patient with an EID.