Section UTMB On-line Documentation Policy 3.07 Subject Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures

3.07 - Visitation Policy for Patients with an Emerging Infectious

Disease (EID)

Revised 12.19.13 2004- Author

## 3.07 - Visitation Policy for Patients with an Emerging Infectious Disease (EID)

**Purpose** To prevent transmission of infection from patients with an EID or a

possible EID to visitors and from visitors with an EID or a possible EID

to patients.

Audience Healthcare workers, personal/faith representatives clergy, UTMB Police

Department.

Policy Statement: 1. Policy when transmission of MERS-CoV or H7N9 influenza is occurring in the community.

- A. EID patients may have no visitors except for the very limited situations below.
  - 1. EID patients may have visitors when they are terminally ill
    - a. Immediate family members
    - b. Personal clergy/faith representatives
  - 2. Children ≤ 12 years of age may have visitors. For children above 12 years of age, the visitation rights will depend on the level of maturity and emotional state of the patient. The charge nurse and the attending faculty will make a joint decision on a case-by-case basis.
    - a. Parents, guardians or family members may not live in with patients.
    - b. Children may have two visitors per day.
    - c. Terminally ill children may be visited by parents and personal clergy/faith representatives.
- В. All visitors will be screened for an EID prior to entering a nursing unit.
- C. Family members and members of the personal clergy/faith representatives will be appropriately attired with ABP barriers prior to entering the room under the supervision of nursing staff.
- D. Nursing staff will also supervise the removal of barriers and proper decontamination of visitors on their exit from the room.

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- II. Visitors (family members, personal clergy/faith representatives) who have an EID or a possible EID and who are entering the hospital to see terminally ill patients will be taken to the decontamination room in the Emergency Department (ED) where they will be required to wash their hands with an antimicrobial soap and water or apply an alcohol hand rub, and don a surgical mask, gown and gloves.
  - A. The person will be conducted to the room of the terminally ill patient by a member of the unit nursing staff wearing PPE required by All Barrier Precautions.
  - B. The visitor will be taken by a route such that he/she would have minimal contact with other persons. (See policy 3.3 Transportation of Patients with an Emerging Infectious Disease [EID] or a Possible EID)
  - C. The visit will be carefully supervised by the unit nursing staff.
  - D. After the visit, if the patient visited does not have an EID or a possible EID, the visitor will be conducted back to the decontamination room in the ED where they will remove surgical mask, gown and gloves. The visitor will have a surgical mask placed on him/her prior to leaving and will decontaminate their hands by washing with an antimicrobial soap or applying an alcohol hand rub. After the visitor has departed, the nursing staff will remove their gloves, goggles and gown and leave the decontamination room. They will wash their hands or apply an alcohol hand rub, remove their mask and repeat hand hygiene.
  - E. If the patient visited has an EID, the visitor will remove barriers in the same manner as healthcare workers exiting an EID patient's room. The visitor will then wash hands with an antimicrobial soap and water or apply an alcohol hand rub, don a surgical mask and clean gown and gloves and be taken back to the decontamination room.