



Blood and Body Fluid Precautions for EMS

It is important for EMS responders to take appropriate measures and utilize proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when providing care to patients who may present varying potential exposure levels to EMS responders. These guidelines are intended to assure safety of the EMS responder in the anticipation of blood and body fluid exposures by providing minimum guidelines.

PROCEDURE	 Hand washing	 Gloves	 Impermeable Gown or Suit	 Eye & Respiratory Protection
Patient/family interviews & discussion	✓			
Patient assessment or care that <u>DOES NOT</u> require touching non-intact skin, body fluids, soiled linens or dressings	✓			
Patient assessment or care that <u>DO</u> require touching non-intact skin, body fluids, soiled linens or dressings	✓	✓		
Patient assessment or care procedures for a patient that has active vomiting, diarrhea or copious blood loss	✓	✓	✓	✓
Establishing venous access, drawing blood, administering IV fluids or draining urine collection vessels (Foley catheter)	✓	✓		
Performing procedures that can cause vigorous coughing : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of nebulized medications • Tracheal suctioning • Placement of advance airways or NG tube 	✓	✓	Consider if blood and body fluids are present	✓
Procedures likely to produce blood/ fluid splattering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cricothyrotomy • Arterial bleeding control with direct pressure 	✓	✓	✓	✓
After a call: handling soiled waste, linens or materials that <u>ARE NOT</u> extensively soiled or saturated with blood or body fluids	✓	✓		
After a call: handling soiled waste, linens or materials that <u>ARE</u> extensively soiled or saturated with blood or body fluids	✓	✓	✓	✓
After a call: decontamination of the ambulance and durable medical equipment	✓	✓	Consider if blood and body fluids are present	Consider if blood and body fluids are present

In addition to considering an exposure presented by the patient, always anticipate potential exposures caused by your actions such as movement of soiled linens and dressings, splash caused during cleanup, aerosolized particles caused by cleaning sprays etc. **YOUR EMPLOYER provides the protective equipment but YOU provide the actions that keep you safe.**