

Western Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

Title: Treatment for Possible Anthrax Exposure	Effective Date: October 12, 2001 Page: 1 of 1
Policy #2001-3	Revised: May 2004

Policy:	Patients presenting to the Emergency Department for evaluation, with a history of possible exposure to, and / or signs / symptoms compatible with an anthrax exposure.
Procedure:	<p>Step 1: Stabilize the patient as indicated medically.</p> <p>Step 2: Call the local police, who will undertake a “credibility assessment”.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Local police, if threat appears credible ? FBI, if they concur ? County Department of Health, confirms risk ? high-risk treatment path. These steps should be completed over a few hours, while patient is in the Emergency Department.</p> <p>If, during any step of the evaluation, it is deemed not a credible threat, proceed with a low risk treatment path.</p> <p>Low Risk Treatment Pathway: <i>Skin Exposure:</i> Follow – up only. No swabs or blood work indicated. NO ANTIBIOTICS. <i>Inhalation Exposure:</i> Follow-up only. No swabs or blood work indicated. NO ANTIBIOTICS.</p> <p>High Risk Treatment Pathway: <i>Skin Exposure:</i> Follow – up only. Advise patient of what to look for (skin lesion). Talk directly to MD who will provide patient follow –up. No swabs, or blood work indicated. NO ANTIBIOTICS, unless / until a suspicious skin lesion occurs. <i>Inhalation Exposure:</i> Consider prophylactic therapy, until site testing (County Department of Health) has ruled Anthrax out. If there is no site evidence (powder, etc.) available for testing (i.e. someone removed the evidence / cleaned the site), a nasal swab MIGHT be helpful. Do other relevant medical testing (i.e. blood cultures, Chest X-ray, etc). Admit / provide follow up as clinically warranted. If you decide admission is not indicated, talk directly to the MD who will provide patient follow – up.</p> <p>Policy / Treatment questions? Call your site MD director or Dr. Young. Specific therapy questions? Call (MDs only may call this number) 1-800-278-2965.</p>
Reference:	