

Liberia Health System Minimum Standards for Safe Care Provision by Healthcare Facilities in the Context of Ebola

The Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) taskforce was tasked to develop a checklist that would be used to determine if clinics, health centers and hospital can safely operate during the Ebola outbreak at the same time as providing the path for sustainable safe health care. The goals of this document are NOT to provide an overall assessment of health facility, but rather to provide a checklist of minimum standards that ensures that a health facility can operate and provide care in an environment that is safe for both patients and staff.

These standards were developed to address core components of IPC: administrative controls (i.e., IPC structure with defined focal point and budget, triage and patient placement, staff training and health), environmental controls (i.e., waste management, water and sanitation) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The development of this document is an adaptation of the document “Components for Infection Prevention and Control Programmes (WHO, 2008)”¹. Each of these areas is critical in ensuring that care is delivered in a safe and effective manner for both staff and patients.

As these are the “Minimum Standards”, a facility must be able to say yes to each and every one in order to safely operate. Due to resource availability, some standards are only applicable in larger health facilities such as hospitals and health centers (HCs).

General Information

Name of Facility:					Level:	
Available Services and Staff – List all services currently provided						
Out-patient:						
In-patient:					Total # of functional beds:	
					Expected patient load/day:	
Preventive services:						
# of available staff:	Physicians	Physicians Assist.	Nursing Staff	Lab personnel	Midwives	Other staff
Health Facility Contact Persons:						
Medical Director:	Name:		Tel:		E-mail:	
Administrator:	Name:		Tel:		E-mail:	
Facility Assessment Team Members :						
Name:		Organization:		Tel:		E-mail:

¹ Core components for infection prevention and control programmes (WHO, 2008) At http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO_HSE_EPR_2009_1/en/

Assessment of Standard Operating Procedures

	Criterion	Facility Type			Comments/Interpretation
		Hospital	HC	Clinic	
	Administrative controls				
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	IPC focal point identified with TOR	X	X	X	Also ensure dedicated time to perform duties
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	IPC committee exists and has TOR	X	X	--	Ask for document. TOR should include the following elements: IPC committee meets on regular basis (e.g., 1-2/month), addresses HCF IPC issues, follows up on previously defined action points and defines actions for the future.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Budget allocated to support IPC Program	X	X	X	For public facilities, these data will come from the CHT; for private facilities, information should come from the owner/operator. There should be items in the budget that cover IPC supplies, and the time required of the IPC focal point.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	MOHSW-approved IPC SOP available in facility (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	The SOP should be available in the facility for staff to review including vaccinators and cleaners
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Clear referral system is in place	X	X	X	In case an EVD case is suspected, the HCF is aware of and able to refer the patient immediately/as soon as possible to an EVD structure (ETU or other EVD structure)
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Reliable communication device (e.g., mobile phone)	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Job-aids (e.g., poster) posted (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	A minimum of one job aid related to IPC other than triage (e.g. hand hygiene, sharps management) is posted in the facility
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Job-aids are present on wards regarding twice daily re-triage of in-patients (OBSERVE)	X	X	-	This refers to three times daily temperature check and daily symptom screening of in-patients to assess whether there is EVD with onset in hospital
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	SOP is available for staff exposure to body fluids and needle-stick injuries (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	SOP should address different routes of exposures and testing and prophylaxis recommendations.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	SOPs for laboratory bio-safety are available in the facility (OBSERVE)	X	X	--	SOPs should address minimizing staff exposures, safe transportation and processing of samples, and proper disposal of hazardous materials.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	SOP for cleaning, disinfection of environmental and reusable material and equipment is available (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	SOPs should address minimizing staff exposures, safe transportation and processing of samples, and proper disposal of hazardous materials.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	A schedule and tool for internal IPC practice and monitoring is available	X	X	-	
	Supply and Equipment				

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	One month of basic drugs and supplies present at the facility	X	X	-	Ask if clinics have a pharmacy
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	One month of IPC supplies present at the facility (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	Supplies include basic and enhanced PPE, hand hygiene needs, cleaning/disinfection supplies, sharps management supplies, and laboratory biosafety supplies
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Basic PPE and functioning thermometers present and available for use at triage	X	X	X	Basic PPE consists of face shield, fluid resistant gown and gloves. Closed toe shoes should also be worn by staff.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Puncture-resistant sharps containers are available in all patient care and other relevant areas (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Needles and syringes are not reused (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Functional sterilization equipment available for use	X	X	X	Includes autoclaves, cold sterilization equipment, thermometers for sterilization by heating, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Functional laundry is present	X	X	-	
Personnel/Staffing and Training					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Healthcare facility staffing meets or exceeds the criteria outlined in the MOHSW Essential Package of Health Services	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Staff have been trained in the MOHSW Keep Safe Keep Serving Package	X	X	X	ASK: When was the last training done
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	At least one clinician is present in the clinic whenever it is open	X	X	X	Clinician is defined as physicians, physicians assistant, and nurse
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	At least one laboratorian is present in the laboratory whenever it is open	X	X	-	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	A system for checking and reporting staff health issues, including daily temperatures check during EVD outbreak, is in place	X	X	X	
Triage					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	A limited number of designated entry points to the facility for triage of patients, staff and visitors is established	X	X	X	Entry to the facility is controlled such that it is not possible for staff, visitors or patients to enter without being triaged.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	All persons (patients, staff and visitors) entering the facility are triaged	X	X	X	The complete triage process – including handwashing, temperature screening and asking about case contact and symptoms – applies to everyone entering the facility and should operate at all times when the facility is open.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	All triage areas should at minimum have hand washing stations, functioning thermometers, and PPE available	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Distance between patient beds is at least 1 m in all patient rooms (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	
WASH/Waste Management					

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Functioning incinerator is present, or facility has the use of a functioning incinerator (OBSERVE)	X	X	-	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Placenta pit is present	X	X	-	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	System in place for standard waste disposal	-	-	X	This may include a waste pit for disposal or a contract with a waste disposal company.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Waste management SOP based on national standards is available in the facility (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Written plan exists for management of dead bodies (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	This may be as simple as saying that bodies will be covered by a sheet, and not touched by untrained staff until the burial team arrives; the contact number for the burial team should be available.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Functioning latrine or toilet facility is available for staff and for patients (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Protocols for waste segregation, storage and disposal exist (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Potable water source available for the facility	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	A schedule internal IPC practice monitoring exists (OBSERVE)	X	X	-	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	All patient rooms are well ventilated ²	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Space is dedicated to and supplies are available for mixing/making the appropriate chlorine solution dilutions daily (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	
Isolation unit					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Written plan exists for management of a suspect/probable EBV cases	X	X	X	This plan should include contact information for reporting, transport, and facility decontamination.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Isolation space includes supplies and an area for HCWs to put on and take off enhanced PPE (OBSERVE)	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Facility-appropriate isolation space exists and is prepared for isolation of probable or suspect cases awaiting transport, and – in hospitals and health centers – to provide care for suspect/probable patients who cannot be transferred.	X	X	X	Entrance and exit should be restricted to essential personnel only.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Latrine/toilet that can be dedicated to	X	-	-	

² Natural ventilation for infection control in health-care settings (WHO, 2009) at http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/natural_ventilation/en/

<input type="checkbox"/> No	managing suspect patients is present (OBSERVE)				
Miscellaneous					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Safe and reliable electric supply is present	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Functional ambulance service is present	X	-	-	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Motorbike or ambulance available and functioning	X	X	--	Health Centers should have motorbike; hospitals should have ambulances
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Functional morgue is present	X	-	-	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	The MOHSW list of priority diseases is available at the facility and reporting systems in place	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Laboratory personnel have been trained in safe collection, packaging, and transport of biological specimens	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Remediation has occurred in response to any Ebola-related IPC audit previously conducted in the facility	X	X	X	If an Ebola-related IPC audit has been conducted, the audit results should be available in the facility, and there should be evidence that any recommendations from the audit have been acted upon.