

Request for Information regarding CPMC's Preparedness for Ebola Virus 10/16/14

The recent confirmation that two staff members at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital were infected with the Ebola virus, despite wearing CDC-recommended personal protective equipment, has raised questions and concerns about the preparedness of hospitals across the country.

Since healthcare workers are on the front line of caring for patients with Ebola virus, we request information regarding CPMC's preparedness for the treatment of such patients. On October 3, 2014, Sutter Health posted information on its website that included the following statement:

"Over the past couple months, Sutter Health and its affiliates have developed comprehensive and specific workplace and patient care guidelines regarding the Ebola virus. We've developed protocols detailing screening and care of patients, safety guidelines for staff and other practices such as isolation procedures, hand washing and the use of personal protective equipment for staff." <http://news.sutterhealth.org/2014/10/03/helpful-information-ebola>

We request the following information with respect to CPMC's preparations to handle patients with the Ebola virus:

1. A copy of the "comprehensive and specific workplace and patient care guidelines" developed by Sutter Health and referenced on Sutter Health's website as noted above;
2. Any policies, procedures, protocols and/or guidelines regarding the screening and care of patients;
3. Any isolation procedures;
4. Any safety guidelines for staff, including guidelines regarding the use of personal protective equipment (including donning and doffing the protective equipment) and decontamination procedures;
5. Any policies, procedures, protocols and/or guidelines regarding the cleaning and decontamination of hospital facilities, such as the Emergency Department and isolation units, where patients may receive treatment;
6. Any policies, procedures, protocols and/or guidelines regarding the collection, handling, transportation, and disposal of medical waste, personal protective equipment, linens, contagious bodily fluids (such as vomit, blood and diarrhea), and other such items;
7. Any policies, procedures, protocols and/or guidelines regarding the collection, transportation, and handling of lab specimens obtained from patients;
8. Any policies, procedures, protocols and/or guidelines regarding the medical monitoring of hospital staff who are involved in the care of patients and may be exposed to the Ebola virus;
9. Any training materials provided to NUHW members as well as a schedule of any upcoming trainings, classes, and/or drills for CPMC staff, including whether such trainings/classes/drills are voluntary or mandatory.