

Training, Maintaining, Sustaining, Establishing a high performing Team in the ED

Cherylynn McGurgan¹, Marie Gertdz², Susan Harding³

1 Royal Melbourne Hospital, Emergency Department Grattan Street Parkville Victoria, 3050. Cherylynn.mcgurgan@mh.org.au

2 Royal Melbourne Hospital, Emergency Department Grattan Street Parkville Victoria, 3050. Marie.gertdz@mh.org.au

3 Royal Melbourne Hospital, Emergency Department Grattan Street Parkville Victoria, 3050. Susan.harding2@mh.org.au

Background: The current West African Ebola epidemic is the largest outbreak of Ebola reported to date. A global emergency was declared by the WHO in August 2014 with large numbers of health care workers infected and a real risk of spread out of West Africa. These cases mostly involved returned or repatriated health care workers who began to appear outside West Africa, despite the closing of borders and monitoring of returned travelers.

While the risk of an outbreak in Australia was considered low, the possibility of a single Ebola patient presenting to the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH), the state's designated Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Centre needed to be managed. Accordingly, the RMH established a program of education and PPE training. Additionally, this encouraged the Emergency Department to review its preparedness for a case of EVD, which in turn revealed deficits in the system. Initially discussions were for all of the ED staff to complete training. This proved to be unsustainable and unrealistic. The ED management suggested a volunteer core group who would be motivated to drive training and developments with a clear vision, leadership and executive support.

Aims: This Poster will describe EVD preparedness including:

- identification of a core infectious Disease Response Team in the ED,
- Resource requirements and levels of PPE required to safely provide care for a single suspected or proven Ebola patient presenting to the RMH ED
- processes to train and maintain an ED core team, particularly in maintaining an exact level of competency in PPE.
- resources required to meet these demands.

Conclusion: The Emergency Department has been able to identify the processes required to achieve competencies and have applied the lessons learnt during the establishment of this program. To ensure the ability to sustain a training program that will meet the requirements of all presentations of highly infectious diseases, ongoing review is required to ensure resources and provisions are available.