

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for Ebola or Marburg: Healthcare Worker and Inpatient Monitoring

Speaker's Notes and Script

Slide 1:

Intended Audience: *This presentation focuses on what **healthcare workers** should know about monitoring healthcare workers and inpatients for Ebola disease (Ebola) and Marburg virus disease (Marburg). This session builds on general information about screening for Ebola or Marburg found in Slide Deck 1 for healthcare workers.*

Please note that the topics for IPC for Ebola or Marburg training are presented in sequence, with the expectation that participants will progress through the series. You may, however, mix and match content to meet participant needs, and you may need to adjust the sample script accordingly.

Estimated time with audience participation: 15 minutes

Script:

Welcome! Today we'll be focusing on monitoring healthcare workers and inpatients in your facility for Ebola disease – or Ebola – and Marburg virus disease – or Marburg. We're going to talk about why this monitoring is important for your safety and the safety of those around you, and then we'll discuss the general process for these types of monitoring.

Slide 2:

Script:

We have three learning objectives for today. By the end of our time together today, you should be able to explain why healthcare worker monitoring and inpatient monitoring is important in the context of Ebola or Marburg and describe steps for monitoring inpatients.

Slide 3:

Activating background knowledge.

A key benefit of working with adult learners is that they likely already have some knowledge or experience related to the topic you are teaching. Activating background knowledge helps students connect new learning to what they already know and may help them understand new information better. It also helps you, the instructor, to identify gaps in knowledge where you may need to spend extra time or add emphasis while teaching. Use this slide as an opportunity to let students share what they already know.

Script:

To get us started, let's review what you know about screening for Ebola or Marburg. When you screen someone entering your facility for Ebola or Marburg, the process involves two parts. Does anyone know what they are?
[Take answers from 2-3 participants.]

Slide 4:

Script:

[As participants may have already stated:]

The two parts are a temperature check and a questionnaire that asks the person being screened about signs, symptoms, and potential risk factors. We're going to talk in more detail today about using this screening method to monitor healthcare workers and people who might already be checked into your facility for other needs.

Slide 5:

Script:

Let's start by talking about monitoring healthcare workers. In a previous session, we talked about the importance of screening anyone who enters your healthcare facility and isolating anyone suspected of having Ebola or Marburg to prevent transmission within the facility. Healthcare workers are no exception. They must be screened, too.

Healthcare workers are exposed to potential risks both within the facility where they work and within the community. They may be exposed to sick patients while at work. While not at work, they may interact with friends and family who are unknowingly ill with Ebola or Marburg, or they may be asked to provide informal care to friends and family who are sick.

If a healthcare worker is sick with Ebola or Marburg and comes to work, they might transmit Ebola or Marburg to their co-workers and/or the patients they treat. Screening healthcare workers before entry into a facility – just as you would screen everyone else – helps to quickly identify if they are ill, refer them for early care, and isolate them from others. This prevents the spread of Ebola or Marburg in your facility and helps protect you, your patients and co-workers, and your community from exposure to Ebola or Marburg.

Slide 6:

Script:

The process for screening healthcare workers is the same as screening for anyone else entering your facilities. At the point of entry to the facility, they should have a temperature check and be questioned about the presence of any signs or symptoms and any recent exposures.

Healthcare workers should be encouraged and not penalized for reporting symptoms so that they don't feel pressured to come to work while experiencing symptoms where they could potentially infect patients and co-workers. Given their high risk of exposure, if a healthcare worker is out sick, they should be quickly evaluated for possible Ebola or Marburg.

Beyond the screening process, healthcare worker monitoring involves keeping a record of healthcare workers entering patient isolation areas because they may be considered more high-risk for potential exposures.

Slide 7:

Script:

In areas of active Ebola or Marburg transmission, monitoring patients who have already been admitted to your facility for other reasons, including delivering a baby or treatment for a different illness, is also important so that you are quickly aware if they develop symptoms. Inpatient identification is an additional layer of screening.

Patients may be an unknown contact of someone sick with Ebola or Marburg or may be a registered contact who has not been followed. The incubation period for Ebola or Marburg can vary depending on the specific disease. For example, the incubation period for Ebola and Marburg is 2-21 days. Because the incubation period for Ebola or Marburg can be up to several weeks, some patients that have been exposed to Ebola or Marburg might not be having symptoms when they come to a healthcare facility for another need. However, they might develop signs and symptoms during their stay in the facility. Quickly identifying them as potentially having Ebola or Marburg and isolating them from others helps protect you, your patients and co-workers, and your community.

Slide 8:

Script:

Similar to the screening process that happens at the facility entrance, inpatient monitoring involves a temperature check and an evaluation of signs or symptoms and potential exposures. You should apply standard precautions for all patients while completing the monitoring.

In areas of active Ebola or Marburg transmission, temperatures should be checked twice a day for all inpatients and assessments should be completed at least once a day using the inpatient monitoring form. All information from the monitoring should be recorded in an inpatient monitoring form.

If, while screening, you find that a patient's temperature is higher than 38 degrees Celsius, that person should be assessed immediately for signs, symptoms, and potential exposure to Ebola or Marburg so that they can be quickly isolated if necessary.

The exact process for this will look different in different facilities based on human resources available and facility policies.

Slide 9:

Script:

This is an example of an inpatient monitoring form. You can see a place for the date, the name of the patient, and a place to record symptoms including the patient's temperature.

Healthcare workers in the general care wards should screen patients daily with this form. All of the listed symptoms in the Ebola or Marburg screening algorithm or job aid should be assessed **once** per day.

Patient temperatures should be taken and recorded **twice** a day.

You can continue to ask about exposures over the last 21 days to increase recall of patients if it's feasible.

Slide 10:

Script:

Based on what we've talked about today, let's discuss a case of a healthcare worker monitoring patients in an area of active Ebola or Marburg transmission.

[Read case.]

You notice that a healthcare worker monitoring patients in the maternity ward of the hospital is walking around to take temperatures of patients and ask about symptoms. They record the temperature but do not record symptoms.

When you ask about the patient's symptoms the health worker responds that the patient has felt nauseous, has had some diarrhea and a headache, and has also had a fever since yesterday but that she does not show signs of Ebola or Marburg because she is not vomiting and does not look hemorrhagic.

The questions to think about in this case are, first, what is the risk of not keeping track of symptoms while performing inpatient monitoring? And second, what is the correct process for in-patient monitoring.

[Give participants 3-5 minutes to discuss in small or large groups or to write down their ideas individually before moving to the next slide which provides the answers.]

Slide 11:

You may wish to adapt the script below based on participant discussion of the previous slide.]

Script:

If you're not recording symptoms, it can be difficult to track if symptoms are getting worse and to see the transition of infection in the patient.

Additionally, changes in nursing staff between shifts mean information might not be transferred between shifts or from day-to-day, and potential cases could be missed.

To monitor inpatients correctly, health workers should complete the in-patient identification form **completely** as agreed upon in their facility for each patient. They should not skip over any steps.

In this case, the patient is showing at least 3 symptoms including a fever and even though those symptom may resemble other infections, the symptoms fit the screening algorithm for a suspect Ebola or Marburg case. The patient should be moved to isolation so that they are separate from other patients. Healthcare workers should be aware of all possible symptoms and combinations of symptoms that may appear in patients ill with Ebola or Marburg to ensure that potential cases are identified and isolated as soon as possible.

Slide 12:

Script:

To wrap up, there are two big things I hope you take away from this session.

First, monitoring healthcare workers and inpatients helps identify anyone who might have Ebola or Marburg early and isolate them from others. This protects you, your patients and co-workers, and your community.

Second, when monitoring inpatients for Ebola or Marburg, always fill out inpatient monitoring forms completely and as agreed upon in your facility to ensure that patients who become ill in your facility can be identified and isolated quickly.