



Ambulatory Clinic Policy and Procedure

Title: PLACEMENT & MANAGEMENT OF INFECTIOUS AND IMMUNE COMPROMISED PATIENTS	Policy Number: EP 7.5
Regulation APIC, CDC, CMS Reference:	Effective Date: 01/2025

Policy Statement:

It is the policy of the Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso (TTP EP) to provide a healthy and safe environment for patients, visitors, and staff. This plan describes the approach to manage the placement of patients with possible communicable infections or who are immuno-compromised.

Scope and Distribution:

This policy applies and will be distributed to all Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso clinics.

Its aims are to minimize the exposure of transmissible infections to other TTP EP patients or personnel and to safe guard immuno-compromised patients.

NOTE: All ambulatory clinics will follow a process to identify and prioritize the placement of patients who are immune compromised or who have possible communicable conditions from other patients.

- Hand hygiene must be performed before, during and after contact with patients that are immune-compromised or who have possible communicable conditions.
- Personnel who are ill will not be assigned to care for immuno-compromised patients.
- Immuno-compromised patients can be cared for in the same environment as other patients.

Review:

The appointed Infection Preventionist, in consultation with the Infection Control Committee Members, will review this TTP EP Policy on June 1 of every even-numbered year.

Procedure:

1. Patient and/or accompanying visitor will be asked a series of health-related questions upon arrival to TTP EP:

Is the patient:

- a. Currently experiencing symptoms associated with a respiratory infection (e.g., fever, flu or cold symptoms and/or a cough) or is coughing up blood,
- b. Currently experiencing loose/watery stools, has draining open sores/wounds,
- c. Immuno-compromised and is at a higher risk of contracting infections.



Ambulatory Clinic Policy and Procedure

2. If patient answers YES to respiratory symptoms, give the patient and visitor a mask and inform them to wear the covering throughout the duration of the visit.
3. Front staff will continue with the intake process and alert practitioner or healthcare personnel (HCP) of patient's arrival.
 - a. Staff will ask practitioner or HCP for assistance with any medical questions.
4. If they answered yes to a, b or c, every effort will be made to place a patient into a private room.
5. Patient who is taken to an exam room, door will be closed and HCP will determine appropriate precautions before entering room.
6. Patients that answer yes to a, b or c and asked to wait in lobby, will be reminded to distance themselves from others.
 - a. Tissues and hand sanitizer will be made available to patients and visitors.
 - b. Waiting areas will have waste receptacles for disposal of infectious materials.
7. HCP will perform hand hygiene after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.

References

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