

EMERGENCY CLINICAL SITUATION ALGORITHM

IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING UNUSUAL CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS OCCUR – CONSIDER DELIBERATE RELEASE

- Unusually large numbers of patients present over a time period
- Cases linked by epidemiological features
 - Similar features/ similar geographical area
 - **STEP 1-2-3** (see Box)
- Signs/ symptoms unusual or unusually severe
- Known cause but unusual in UK or where acquired
- Known cause but not responding to standard therapy
- Unknown aetiology

CBRN INCIDENTS
<http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1158934607980?p=1158934607980>



CBRN incidents: clinical management & health protection

Consider the risk of transmission or contamination to staff and/ or other patients

***Isolate patient**

***Use standard personal protective equipment (PPE) - wear gloves, gown, and mask (add eye protection if patient coughing or vomiting)**

ACUTE

- over minutes to hours
- occur in circumscribed geographical area
- occur in people who may have shared a known common exposure

DELAYED

- over hours to days or days to weeks
- may or may not occur in geographical clusters
- may or may not occur in people who have shared a known common exposure
- detected by surveillance

Most likely: CHEMICAL
 Other possibilities: **Biological toxins**
Radiological

Most likely: INFECTIOUS AGENT
 Other possibilities: **Radiological**
Chemicals (latent period)
(Psychological)

STEP 1-2-3

The following precautions should be taken before continuing with the assessment.

First Actions
One Casualty
 Treat as **normal**

Two Casualties
 Have a **low index of suspicion** but otherwise treat as normal

Three Casualties or More
 Initial assessment should be outside the department, use **PPE**, ask for **SPECIALIST HELP**

- **STAFF PROTECTION (PPE), HOSPITAL PROTECTION (air conditioning, isolation)**
- **INITIAL CLINICAL ASSESSMENT, HISTORY AND LIFE SAVING MANAGEMENT**

In a chemical incident prompt decontamination may be life saving. In a radiological incident triage and treat life threatening injury before decontamination; if the patients clinical condition permits, decontaminate first and then treat. Initiate local/ regional contingency plans.

DECONTAMINATION

Rinse-Wipe-Rinse

Step 1
Gently wash affected areas with soapy water (0.9% saline for open wounds and eyes): this dilutes the contaminant and removes particles and water based chemicals

Step 2
Wipe affected areas gently but thoroughly with sponge or soft brush or washcloth: this removes organic chemicals and petrochemicals

Step 3
Gently rinse affected areas

1. Seek expert advice locally*

2. Ensure safety of self, other staff and patients

3. Detailed clinical assessment – use standard PPE

- Nature and time course of symptoms
- Detailed clinical history
- Identify possible recent risk factors:
 - Where has the patient been?
 - What has the patient been doing?
 - With whom or what has the patient had contact?

4. Management as per best available advice

- Take samples for laboratory investigations
- Treatment or Prophylaxis as indicated

5. Record information and communicate with

- Senior clinician
- Hospital management
- Infection control
- Local medical microbiologist & chemical pathologist
- Laboratories
- Local HPU
- Chemical Hazards and Poisons Division/ National Poisons Information Service
- Local Radiation Protection Advisor

***Inform local HPU IMMEDIATELY**
<http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/1158945066055>

SEEK EXPERT ADVICE
 For full list and contact details see Appendix 1

Emergency Clinical Situation Algorithm Appendices

Appendix 1-3 - Useful Contact Numbers FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ONLY

1. Expert support agencies
2. Specialist reference Laboratories
3. Local Health Protection Units – 24 hour contact

Appendix 1 – Expert Support Agencies

AGENCY	PHONE (24 HR)	FAX (9AM TO 5PM) E-MAIL
HPA Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response (CEPR)	01980 612100	01980 612968 erd@hpa.org.uk
National Public Health Service for Wales	01443 824160	01443 824161 general.enquiries@nphs.wales.nhs.uk
Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre Northern Ireland	02890 263765	02890 263511 cdscni@hpa.org.uk
Health Protection Scotland	0141 300 1100	0141 300 1170 (general) hpsenquiries@HPS.scot.nhs.uk
INFECTIOUS DISEASES		
HPA Centre for Infections (Cfi)	020 8200 4400 020 8200 6868	020 8200 7874 DrComments@hpa.org.uk
CHEMICAL HAZARDS		
HPA Chemical Hazards and Poisons Division (CHaPD)	National on-call number: 0844 892 0555	01235 822614 chemicals@hpa.org.uk
RADIOLOGICAL HAZARDS		
HPA Radiation Protection Division (RPD)	01235 831600	01235 833891 (general) rpd@hpa.org.uk
Radiation and Environmental Monitoring Scotland	0141 440 2201	0141 440 0820 glasgow@hpa.org.uk

Appendix 2 - Specialist Reference Laboratories for “unknowns” or Deliberate Release Agents

Further information and links to specialist laboratories and reference facilities can be found at

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1153846673361?p=1153846673361>

Specific information and guidelines on deliberate release agents see

http://www.hpa.org.uk/deliberate_accidental_releases/biological

DISEASE	LABORATORY	PHONE (24 HR unless otherwise stated)
UNKNOWN	Respiratory and Systemic Infections Laboratory, HPA Cfl	020 8200 4400 / 6868 020 8327 7330 (9am-5pm)
ANTHRAX	Special Pathogens Reference Unit, HPA CEPR	01980 612100 01980 612224 (9am-5pm)
BOTULISM	Laboratory of gastrointestinal Pathogens, HPA Cfl	020 8200 4400 / 6868 020 8327 7116/ 7117 (9am-5pm)
BRUCELLOSIS	Brucella Reference Unit, HPA Collaborating Laboratory, University Hospital Aintree, Liverpool OR Department of Statutory and Exotic Bacterial Diseases, Veterinary Laboratory Agency, Weybridge	0151 529 4900 OR 01932 357610
GLANDERS AND MELIOIDOSIS	Laboratory of Healthcare Associated Infection, HPA Cfl	020 8200 4400 / 6868 020 8327 7224 (9am-5pm)
PLAGUE	Laboratory of Gastrointestinal Pathogens, HPA Cfl	020 8200 4400 / 6868 020 8327 6173 (9am-5pm)
Q FEVER	HPA South West, Bristol Royal Infirmary OR Special Pathogens Reference Unit, HPA CEPR	0117 342 5551 OR 01980 612100 01980 612224 (9am-5pm)
SMALLPOX	Virus Reference Department, HPA Cfl OR Special Pathogens Reference Unit, HPA CEPR	020 8200 4400 / 6868 020 8327 6017 (9am-5pm) OR 01980 612100 01980 612224 (9am-5pm)
TULAREMIA	Special Pathogens Reference Unit, HPA CEPR	01980 612100 01980 612224 (9am-5pm)
VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC FEVERS	Virus Reference Department, HPA Cfl OR Special Pathogens Reference Unit, HPA CEPR	020 8200 4400 / 6868 020 8327 6017 (9am-5pm) OR 01980 612100 01980 612224 (9am-5pm)

Appendix 3 - Local Health Protection Units – Office & Out of Hours Telephone Numbers

For full HPU contact details see

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListDate/Page/1169747331532?p=1169747331532>

REGION	HPU	OFFICE HOURS	OUT OF HOURS
EAST	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	01462 705300	Bedford General Hospital: 01234 355122 Luton & Dunstable Hospital: 0845 1270127 Lister Hospital: 01438 314333 Queen Elizabeth II Hospital: 01707 328111 Watford General Hospital: 01923 244366 Hemel Hempstead Gen. Hospital: 01422 213141 St Albans City Hospital: 01727 866122
	Essex	0845 1550069	Essex Ambulance Paging Service: 01245 444417
	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Cambridgeshire Norfolk Suffolk	01480 398607 01603 307317 01473 329000	Medicom: 01603 481221 James Paget Hospital: 01493 452452 Medicom: 01604 419800
EAST MIDLANDS	East Midlands North	01623 819000	East Midlands Ambulance Service: 0115 929 6477
	East Midlands South	01162 631400	
LONDON	North East and North Central	020 7759 2860	07623 541417
	North West	020 8327 7181	01895 238282
	South East	020 3049 4338	0844 8222888 and ask for SELPH1
	South West	020 8812 7850	020 8390 4008
NORTH EAST	North East Northumberland, Tyne and Wear County Durham and Tees Valley	0191 2023888 0191 3333372	0191 4144844
NORTH WEST	Cheshire and Merseyside	0151 290 8360	0151 264 6922
	Cumbria & Lancashire	01257 246450	01253 300000
	Greater Manchester	0161 7866710	0161 3316000

REGION	HPU	OFFICE HOURS	OUT OF HOURS
SOUTH EAST	Hampshire & Isle of Wight	0845 0552022	02380 777222
	Kent	01622 710161	0870 2385154
	Sussex and Surrey East Sussex West Sussex Surrey	01273 403591 01243 770772 01372 824262	} } 0870 2385156 }
	Thames Valley	0845 2799879	0870 2385155
SOUTH WEST	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Avon Gloucestershire Wiltshire	0117 900 2620 01453 829650 01380 814000	Avon Ambulance Control: 01454 455433 Gloucester Royal Hospital } 08454 222222 Cheltenham General Hospital} Great Western Hospital: 01793 604020
	Dorset and Somerset Dorset Somerset	01202 851272 01823 287817	Poole Hospital: 01202 665511 Musgrove Park Hospital: 01823 333444
	South West Peninsula Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Devon	01726 627881 01803 861833	Royal Cornwall Hospital: 01872 250000 Derriford Hospital: 01752 777111 Torbay Hospital: 01803 641567 North Devon District Hospital: 01271 322577 Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital: 01392 411611
WEST MIDLANDS	West Midlands East Birmingham and Solihull Coventry and Warwickshire	0121 2550800 01926 493491 ext 234	Heartlands Hospital: 0121 424 2000 Walsgrave Hospital: 02476 602020
	West Midlands North	01785 221158 01785 221126	Royal Shrewsbury Hospital: 01743 261000 Princess Royal Hospital: 01952 641222 Staffordshire General Hospital: 01785 257731
	West Midlands West	01562 756300	Russells Hall Hospital: 01384 215621 Hereford & Worcester Ambulance Service - Central Control: 01886 834244
YORKSHIRE and HUMBERSIDE	North Yorkshire and Humber North Yorkshire Humber	01904 567675 01482 672171	Tees East and North Yorkshire Ambulance Service: 01904 666030
	South Yorkshire	0114 2428850	Doncaster Royal Infirmary: 01302 366666 Royal Hallamshire Hospital: 0114 2711900
	West Yorkshire	0113 2840606	Seacroft Lodge: 0113 2063283