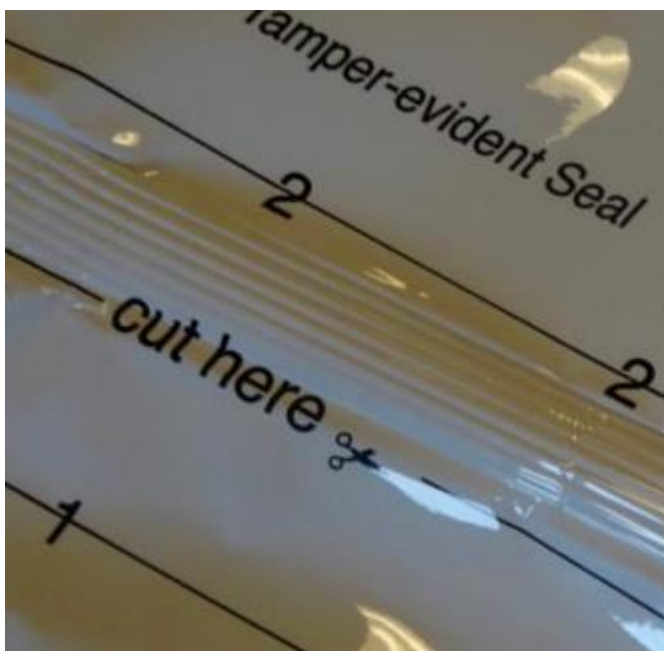


Special Pathogens Response Center (SPARC) SOP: Decedent Care for a Special Pathogen Patient	
Subject	This procedure will define a process for the safe handling of the human remains of a patient with a known or suspected special pathogen.
Supplies	Supplies needed for patient room: - Hospital stretcher with 3 pre-opened cremation-compatible body bags - First bag – top layer on stretcher: vinyl or other chlorine free material, minimum of 6 mil thickness. To prevent leakage of fluids, all seams should be factory heat-sealed or welded, not sewn and zipper should be on top. - Second bag – middle layer: BioSeal® Biosafety Level 4 Containment bag (chlorine free material impervious to fluids) that can be heat-sealed around the body to form a leakproof body bag. The material should be precut to provide sufficient material to envelop the body and first bag. - Third bag – bottom layer: laminated vinyl or other chlorine free material, minimum of 18 mil thickness with handles that are not sewn on, such as riveted handles reinforced with handle straps that run under the pouch. To prevent leakage of fluids, all seams should be factory heat-sealed or welded, not sewn and zipper should be on top. - Thermal Sealer - PPE for care of a patient with a special pathogen - Safety-tipped trauma sheers for cutting excess material from heat-sealed bag. - Tape - EPA-registered disinfectant wipes from List L or List Q - Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) - Red biohazard bag for medical waste - Zip tie for locking the third bag shut at the zipper - Enlarged copy of the Ebola Mortuary Guidance Job Aid: Steps for Postmortem Preparation of Ebola Infected Human Remains in a Hospital and tape for posting in the room Supplies needed for Clean Area: - Mortuary stretcher - Adhesive-backed pouch that is applied to the decontaminated body bag - Extended cuff gloves - Long sleeved disposable gown - Biohazard spill kit with special pathogen PPE, absorbent materials such as paper towels, kitty litter or a solidifier, an EPA-registered disinfectant from List L or List Q - Infectious substance labels to be applied to the decontaminated body bag: - Black and white “infectious substance” label - United Nations (UN) 2814 label “Do no open” label
Procedure	- Before patient room entry, cut amount of BioSeal® Biosafety Level 4 Containment bag needed for middle later. At least 7 feet will be needed. Place in between the two other body bags on a gurney. - Turn on the thermal sealer to warm up. - Use the camera to take a photograph of the decedent’s face for identification purposes. The photograph should be securely transferred electronically. The device must be decontaminated before being removed from the contaminated area or reused. If not decontaminated, discard with other medical waste.

- Position gurney with 3 open body bags next to the hospital bed with the body.
- Pull the bedsheets that are under the body up and around the front of the body. Do not wash or clean the body. Do not remove any inserted medical equipment such as IV lines or endotracheal tubes.
- Remove the first bag from the gurney. Gently roll the body wrapped in sheets while sliding the first bag under the body. Careful to minimize contact of HCP with the body.
- Complete the transfer of the body wrapped in sheets to the first bag and zip up the bag, minimizing the amount of air in the bag.
- Excess areas of the body bag should be wrapped around the body and taped in place to prevent from being trapped in the BioSeal material.
- Disinfect gloves with ABHR. If any areas of HCP PPE are visibly contaminated, wipe with an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe.
- Disinfect the outside of the first bag with an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe.
- Change outer gloves.
- Transfer the first bag with the body in it to the gurney, placing it on top of the BioSeal® bag.
- Disinfect gloves with ABHR.
- Fold the BioSeal® bag material around the first bag and heat seal 2 inches from the edges.





- Begin sealing on the short end of the bag. Start 1st seal on the outer most side of the BioSeal® material, near line #1. Seal all 4 sides of the material, including the factory sealed edge.
- Cut off any excess material after completing first seal.



- The 2nd seal should be completed on the inner side of the first seal near line #2. Seal all 4 sides of the material.
- Heat seal the corners at a diagonal.
- Turn off thermal sealer and allow to cool. It must be decontaminated before being removed from the contaminated area or reused.
- Disinfect the outside of the BioSeal® bag with an EPA-registered disinfectant.
- Disinfect gloves with ABHR.
- Work the third bag round the BioSeal® bag and zip closed. Tie the zipper shut using zip ties.
- Disinfect gloves with ABHR.
- Wheel the stretcher to the doffing area.

	- Decontaminate the surface of the bag with a Super Sani Cloth (purple top wipe) or a bleach wipe (orange top wipe) and allow sufficient contact time with each surface per manufacturer's instructions for use. (2 minutes for purple top wipe and 4 minutes for orange top wipe) - Wipe top of the bag and any exposed areas of the gurney's cot - Roll the bag to one side to decontaminate half of the bottom of the bag and the exposed portion of the gurney's cot. - Repeat with the other side of the bag and gurney. - Remove any soil from the bag or gurney using the EPA-registered disinfectant wipes. - Reapply allowing sufficient contact time per manufacturer's instructions for use. - Disinfect the surfaces of the gurney from the handles to the wheels with an EPA-registered disinfectant. - Disinfect gloves with ABHR - Push gurney gently so only the gurney and decontaminated body bag enter the clean area. HCP in the contaminated area should not enter the clean area. Another set of HCP should receive the body in the clean area and transport the body to the morgue. Note: The body bag has been decontaminated, and the potential for further contamination has been eliminated with careful handling of the body. Staff who handle the body bag from this point should wear extended cuff gloves and a long-sleeved disposable gown. Additional PPE is optional. Transporting Human Remains in the Facility: - Place patient identification and any other documents, including a print out of the photograph taken and place in the adhesive backed pouch that is attached to the body bag. This will serve in place of toe tags. - This is done when the body is in the clean area. - Notify the mortuary if there are any implanted electronic medical devices.
References	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, May 7). Safe handling of human remains of VHF patients in U.S. hospitals and mortuaries. https://www.cdc.gov/viral-hemorrhagic-fevers/hcp/infection-control/guidance-for-safe-handling-of-human-remains-of-vhf-patients-in-u-s-hospitals-and-mortuaries.html University of Nebraska Medical Center Biocontainment Unit. (2021, February 17). Handling of Human Remains Containing Ebola Virus Disease. https://www.nebraskamed.com/sites/default/files/documents/biocontainment/CODforNEWebsite.pdf
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