

Special Pathogens Response Center (SPARC) SOP: Provider Down	
Subject	This SOP will define a process for the safe care and transport of staff who (have had or have) an event while in special pathogen PPE in a patient's room with a suspected or confirmed special pathogen. An event is a situation in which the staff member is unable to perform their duties due to loss of consciousness, impaired mental status, respiratory arrest, or cardiac arrest.
Responsibility	All staff working in the Special Pathogen Unit (SPU) are responsible for understanding and conducting procedures described in this SOP.
Supplies	• Trauma Shears • Bed Sheet • Stretcher • Portable oxygen tank • Ambu-bag • Non-rebreather mask • EPA registered disinfectant wipes • Zoll • Code Cart
Procedure(s)	Ambulatory Staff in Distress • Alert the Charge RN to a medical emergency in the high-risk zone. Initial Response: • Trained PPE Monitor and/or Resource staff will respond to the staff member in distress. • Verbally (direct) the staff member to the door to remove outer gown and booties. • Verbally direct the distressed staff member to the designated doffing area. • Notify two additional staff members who are trained in special pathogen PPE to don their PPE and assist the distressed staff member. In the doffing area, two additional "clean" responders (already donned in special pathogen PPE from the low-risk zone) will assist. Independent Doffing Process: If the distressed staff member can doff independently, allow them to do so under guidance from the PPE monitor. If the staff member cannot doff independently, proceed as follows: Assisted Doffing Steps: (in patient room) • The first newly donned staff member will enter the patient's room to assist the distressed staff member, and this staff member will subsequently assume care of the patient. • The first respondent in the room will assist the distressed staff member with performing hand hygiene • Remove the outer gown of the distressed staff member by ripping

the side tie and pulling gown starting at shoulders and rolling it down and off the arms.

- **All staff will perform hand hygiene**
- **(The first respondent will) Assist the staff member with removal of booties (provide a chair if needed). Utilize grabbers to remove booties.**
- **All staff will perform hand hygiene**
- **Assist the distressed staff member will proceed to the doffing area**

Assisted Doffing Steps: (in doffing area)

- **Provide a chair for the distressed staff member**
- **Remove coveralls (Unzip suit and peel away from distressed staff)**
- **Remove boot covers**
- **Remove CAPR hood (rip ties, unsnap sides and carefully pull hood away)**
- **All staff will perform hand hygiene**
- **Remove CAPR helmet, battery and belt**
- **All staff will perform hand hygiene**

Post-Doffing Care

- **Place staff member in wheelchair**
- **Transport to Emergency Department for monitoring and assessment.**
 - **Follow Breach in PPE SOP if a breach occurs**

All doffing assistants will follow protocols for doffing PPE with a PPE monitor.

Non-Ambulatory Staff in Distress

- **Alert the Charge RN to a medical emergency in the high-risk zone.**

(Scenario 1) - Two staff Members in Patient Room

- **The unaffected staff member will drag the downed staff member to the doorway by:**
 - **Armpits or ankles, depending on what is closest to the doorway.**
- **Two “clean” responders will don special pathogen PPE from the low-risk side will meet them at the door.**

(Scenario 2) - Single staff member alone in room

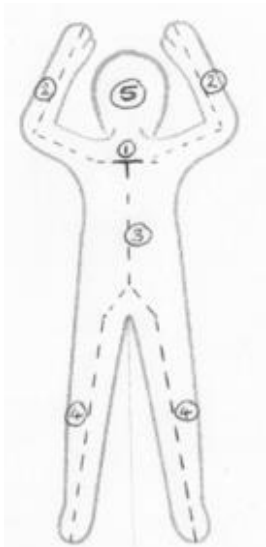
- **2 “clean” responders will don special pathogen PPE**
- **One responder will enter the room and drag the staff member to the door area using the armpits or ankles.**

Gross Contamination or Cardiac Arrest (in patient room)

- **Check staff member for responsiveness and a pulse**
- **If pulseless, one responder begins compressions immediately**
- **Second responder begins cutting outer gown and suit**
- **Slide staff member onto bedsheet and drag to doffing area**

PPE Removal (Cut Method)

- **Cut PPE in following sequence (see diagram)**
 - **Start at upper chest**
 - **Cut both arms**
 - **Cut down the torso**

	○ Cut down each leg to the ankles  (Diagram used courtesy of Medical University of South Carolina) • Remove boot covers • Remove CAPR hood ○ Gently push from back to front • Tuck cut PPE under staff member's sides Transfer and Medical Support • Assess airway per BLS protocol • Attach defibrillator pads • Initiate BLS/ACLS as indicated • Place staff member on a stretcher and transport to ED as needed
References	Provider Down Protocol · NETEC Resource Library (netecweb.org)
Related Policies	
Owners	UNC SPARC Program Manager UNC SPARC Medical Director