**Guidance for Providers & Staff When Caring for Patients with Suspected Mpox**

Please follow these steps when you suspect a patient has Mpox (formerly monkeypox). Specimen collection instructions and treatment guidance are included.

1. Ensure the patient is wearing a medical-grade mask.
2. Use PPE for Airborne + Full Barrier Precautions; negative pressure room/HEPA filter **not required unless intubation, extubation, or another procedure likely to spread oral secretions is being performed.**
   a. Immediately place patient in a **private room with the door closed.**
   b. PPE for all who enter rooms: gown, gloves, eye protection, and N95 or CAPR.
3. Patients may be tested in all WakeMed MyCare 365, Urgent Care, and Primary Care locations as well as in WakeMed EDs and inpatient locations. Testing is not available at other WPP practices – please refer patients presenting at specialty clinics to one of the locations listed above.
5. Order testing if the patient meets moderate or high-risk criteria.
   a. For ED and inpatient testing, the testing supply bundle must be obtained from the microbiology lab for your facility. Outpatient practices have supplies on site – reach out to your practice leadership if you need assistance.
   b. Tests must be ordered in Epic per the testing instructions.
   c. Specimens must be collected and sent to the WakeMed lab per the testing instructions.

**Testing & Specimen Collection Options**

Order the Mpox Diagnostic Panel in Epic – It contains 5 orders in the inpatient/ED setting and 4 in the ambulatory setting; the isolation order is not part of the ambulatory panel.

1. **Airborne + Full Barrier Precautions (non-COVID)** – inpatient/ED only – reason defaults to Mpox.
2. **Syphilis Screen with Reflex Confirmation** – Blood test. Use orange-top serum separator tube.
3. **Varicella Zoster Virus DNA PCR** – Provider must enter specimen source in free text field. Lesion swab, collect instructions below.
4. **HSV 1/2 PCR, Lesion** - Lesion swab, collect instructions below.
5. **Mpox (Orthopoxvirus) DNA PCR, Ref Lab** - Lesion swab, collect instructions below.

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Collect Instructions for Varicella, HSV, and Monkeypox lesion swabs:
Use three Universal Transport Media (UTM) kits – one for each test. Use one swab from each kit and discard the second swab. Vigorously rub the swab on the outside surface of the lesion – do not unroof. Firmly rub swab 2-3x across the lesion, then rotate and use other side of swab to rub across the lesion again at least 2-3 times. Insert swab into UTM. Carefully break the swab at the scoreline and tightly close the sample.

All specimens must be refrigerated or placed in a cooler on ice if they are collected in an outpatient setting. ED and inpatient specimens must be sent to the lab immediately after collection.

Treatment for Patients Suspected & Confirmed Positive for Mpox

Patients who present with mild/moderate symptoms (outpatient)
- Supportive care is the mainstay of treatment.
- If patient qualifies for antiviral therapy per CDC recommendations, you may request tecovirimat.
  - Patient must be consented and have a completed patient intake form filled out prior to prescribing tecovirimat (using CDC link located in order).
  - Patient intake form is completed via CDC registry [https://airc.cdc.gov/surveys/?s=N3KPDHHPAJARPR7X](https://airc.cdc.gov/surveys/?s=N3KPDHHPAJARPR7X)
    - Providers who have not registered should select: “have previously submitted Form FDA 1572 and TPOXX IND forms prior to this online registry, but I did not receive an email to gain access to electronic TPOXX IND forms” to register and receive link to intake form.
    - Patient intake form must be completed within 7 days of prescribing medication.
- Send prescription to Raleigh Campus or Cary Hospital Outpatient Pharmacy only (tecovirimat is unavailable at most other outpatient pharmacies).

Patients who present with severe symptoms (inpatient)
- Supportive care is the mainstay of treatment.
- If patient qualifies for antiviral therapy (per CDC recommendations), you may request tecovirimat.
  - Patient must be consented and have a completed patient intake form filled out prior to prescribing tecovirimat (using CDC link located in order)
    - Patient consent form must be uploaded to patient’s chart
    - Patient intake form is completed via CDC registry ([https://airc.cdc.gov/surveys/?s=N3KPDHHPAJARPR7X](https://airc.cdc.gov/surveys/?s=N3KPDHHPAJARPR7X))
      - Providers who have not registered should select: “have previously submitted Form FDA 1572 and TPOXX IND forms prior to this online registry, but I did not receive an email to gain access to electronic TPOXX IND forms” to register and receive link to intake form.

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Patient intake form must be completed within 7 days of prescribing medication.

Patients may be eligible to receive vaccination against Mpox. If eligible, patients may call Wake County Health Department Mpox call center at 919-212-9398 to be screened and schedule an appointment for potential vaccination.

Populations that are eligible include:

- Anyone who had close contact in the past two weeks with someone who has been diagnosed with Mpox; or gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, or transgender individuals, who are sexually active; or people who have had sexual contact with gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, or transgender individuals in the past 90 days; or people living with HIV, or taking medication to prevent HIV (PrEP), or who were diagnosed with syphilis in the past 90 days.
- People who have had any of the following in the past 6 months:
  - Sex at a commercial sex venue
  - Sex in association with a large public event
  - Sexual partners of people with the above risks
  - People who anticipate experiencing the above risks

Patients who present with recent exposure (within 14 days) to a known positive case

- Instruct the patient to call the Wake County Health Department Communicable Diseases line: 919-250-4462 to be screened and schedule an appointment for potential vaccination.

Please send your questions to Jessica Dixon, WakeMed Infection Prevention, jedixon@wakemed.org or call 919-350-8177.