Guidance for Providers & Staff When Caring for Patients with Suspected Monkeypox

Please follow these steps when you suspect a patient has 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.
4. Evaluate the patient to determine if monkeypox testing should be considered: https://wakemed4.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet/resources/library/Clinical%20Guidelines%20and%20References/Monkeypox%20Evaluation%20Guidance.pdf
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 Instructions

Order the Monkeypox 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 monkeypox.
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, collection instructions below
5. Monkeypox (Orthopoxvirus) DNA PCR, Ref Lab - lesion swab, collection instructions below

Continued→
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 Monkeypox

Patients who present with mild/moderate symptoms (outpatient) or to the emergency department:
• Supportive care is the mainstay of treatment.
• If patient qualifies for antiviral therapy per CDC recommendations, may request tecovirimat.
  o Patient must be consented and have a complete patient intake form filled out prior to prescribing tecovirimat (using CDC link located in order)
  o Patient consent and intake form should be uploaded to patient’s chart and emailed to CDC (email: regaffairs@cdc.gov; CC: jebouchard@wakemed.org)
  o All of the above must be complete prior to ordering tecovirimat outpatient (available via CDC link in order)
    • Send prescription to Raleigh or Cary Outpatient Pharmacy only (tecovirimat is unavailable at most outpatient pharmacies other than these)

Patients who present with severe symptoms (inpatient)
• Supportive care is the mainstay of treatment.
• If patient qualifies for antiviral therapy per CDC recommendations, may request tecovirimat.
  o Patient must be consented and have a complete patient intake form filled out prior to prescribing tecovirimat (using CDC link located in order)
  o Patient consent and intake form should be uploaded to patient’s chart and emailed to CDC (email: regaffairs@cdc.gov; CC: jebouchard@wakemed.org)
  o All of the above must be complete prior to ordering tecovirimat inpatient (available via CDC link in order)

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.
• Patients may also visit www.wakegov.com/monkeypox for additional details and requests

Gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, or transgender individuals, who are sexually active, 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
• 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.
• Patients may also visit www.wakegov.com/monkeypox for additional details and requests

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