

Radiological Emergencies: OPC First Receiver Patient Care Toolkit

Health Care Provider PPE when Caring for Patients in a Radiation Emergency

- This resource supports hospital-based health care providers determining what PPE is needed when providing care to patients in a radiation emergency.
- Notify the hospital's Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) as early as possible.

Determine what type of incident the patient has had.

Is there radioactive material on or in the body (clothes, wounds, inhaled, ingested)?

- If NO (patient exposed to a radiation source, but not contaminated, e.g., near a source, or after an X-Ray):
 - No decontamination is required.
 - Standard precautions are sufficient.
- If YES or UNSURE:
 - Assume this patient is contaminated.

Irradiated Patients

- No specific PPE is required when caring for patients who have been EXPOSED to radiation.
- This is the same as caring for a patient that has had an x-ray.
- Health care providers can wear universal precautions.

Contaminated Patients

- Droplet and airborne precautions:
 - Double gloves
 - Gown
 - N95 mask
 - Face shield
 - Shoe covers
 - Hair cover
- Ideally, tape any potential areas of contaminant entry (example: uncovered zippers)

For providers performing wet decontamination, who may be in contact with water runoff:


- Waterproof gown or coveralls
- Waterproof shoe covers

Once patients have undergone decontamination, health care providers do not require special PPE when caring for patient. Standard universal precautions are adequate



First Receiver PPE in a Radiation Emergency

RADIATION EXPOSURE ONLY

 No special radiation-specific PPE is required

Use standard (universal) precautions as clinically indicated:



Gown



Gloves



Mask



Face shield
or goggles

CONTAMINATION SUSPECTED



Gown



Double gloves



N95 respirator



Face shield
or goggles



Medical Hair
Covering



Wear Dosimeter
(if available)



Tape portals of entry

For personnel at risk of exposure to contaminated liquids:



Water-repellent
surgical gown or
coveralls



Waterproof
shoe covers



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