STAPHYLOCOCCAL ENTEROTOXIN B: Health Care Information

Staphylococcal enterotoxin B (SEB) is a toxin that is produced by *Staphylococcus aureus* and has been extensively studied and manufactured as a military weapon. SEB is not used in industry but may be intentionally released as an aerosol or vapor or introduced into the water/food supply. Once absorbed, the toxin stimulates the production of inflammatory mediators.

**Recognition and Triage:** SEB may produce an initial asymptomatic period that may last up to 12 hours, followed by acute onset of fever, myalgias, headache, nausea, vomiting, anorexia, cough, dyspnea and pneumonitis. Laboratory results may reveal a leukocytosis. Patients may be triaged as follows:
- **Immediate:** Hypotension, severe dyspnea, high fever
- **Minor:** Vomiting, mild dyspnea
- **Delayed:** Asymptomatic

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (at the health care site):** Personnel who decontaminate patients should wear splash-proof PPE (waterproof outer garment) and a filtered air respirator. Personnel treating patients who have already been decontaminated require no PPE other than universal precautions.

**Decontamination (at the health care site):** Sufficient decontamination includes removal of ALL clothing and jewelry and thorough washing of the skin and hair with water for 3 to 5 minutes.

**Diagnosis and Treatment:** Treatment is supportive. Oxygen may be required for hypoxemia. Bronchodilators (e.g., albuterol) may be used for wheezing or cough. Acetaminophen and anti-emetics may be used for fever and vomiting. Contact the Poison Center (1 800 222 1222) for specific questions or advice on individual patients.

The diagnosis is clinical. In unknown events, draw and send 3 purple top and one green (or gray) top tube of blood and 25mL of urine to the OR State Health Lab (see attached chemical specimen collection form).

**Patient Monitoring:** Continuous monitoring of pulse oximetry, blood pressure and heart rate is necessary in patients with severe symptoms.

**Disposition Criteria (when to send patient home):** Patients who are initially asymptomatic may develop severe symptoms over 3 to 12 hours. All patients require observation for at least 12 hours. Those who are discharged should be instructed to return for symptoms including fever, vomiting and lightheadedness.

**Reporting/Coordination Link:** Call the Poison Center (1 800 222 1222) for information on specific patients. Contact the local or state public health authority (Oregon Public Health Hotline: 1 800 805 2313) to report a mass casualty incident.
Please review the [CDC Collection Protocol](#), which should be included with this FAX.