



Management of Patient With Suspected Notifiable Diseases Procedure

Procedure Number

WCDHB-IC-0024

Version Nos:

5

1. Purpose

This Procedure is performed as a means of managing patient admitted to West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB) facilities with a suspected Notifiable Disease.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all staff throughout WCDHB.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Notifiable Disease is taken to mean any disease specified in either the First Schedule or Second Schedule of the Health Act 1956, or in the Tuberculosis Act 1948.

4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Medical Practitioners shall:

- notify the Medical Officer of Health of any notifiable disease they suspect or clinically diagnose.

Nursing staff shall:

- ensure that the patient is cared for in the appropriate isolation

Clinical Nurse Specialist - Infection Control shall:

- oversee all aspects of this Procedure.

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- First and Second Schedules of the Health Act 1956
- Tuberculosis Act 1948
- Notification of Notifiable Disease Form
- WCDHB Laboratory Test Request Form

6. Process

- 1.00 On admission to a WCDHB facility, any patient, who the admitting medical practitioner suspects has a notifiable disease, is to be immediately placed into the appropriate form of isolation (contact, respiratory or enteric) and notify the Medical Officer of Health (*as per the requirements of the WCDHB Notification Of Infectious Diseases Procedure*).
- 1.01 Appropriate samples are to be taken and sent to the Grey Hospital Laboratory for confirmation of the suspected notifiable disease.
- 1.02 The WCDHB Clinical Nurse Specialist - Infection Control is then to be notified (as soon as is practicable) that a patient with a suspected notifiable disease has been admitted to a WCDHB Facility.
- 1.03 Appropriate treatment is to be initiated as per the instructions of relevant medical staff, and advice provided to staff members by the WCDHB Clinical Nurse Specialist - Infection Control.



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- 1.04 The WCDHB Clinical Nurse Specialist - Infection Control is then to notify (as soon as is practicable) the relevant General Manager that a patient with a suspected notifiable disease has been admitted to a WCDHB Facility, and what actions have been taken and/or are planned.
- 1.05 If the results of the laboratory tests confirm the presence of a Notifiable Disease, the responsible medical practitioner is required to notify this to the Medical Officer of Health as per the requirements of the *WCDHB Notification Of Infections Diseases Procedure*.
- 1.06 Contract tracing is the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health, and if necessary WCDHB staff members are to provide assistance as required.
- 1.07 The patient is to remain in the appropriate isolation until discharged or as advised by Consultant Physician/Infectious Disease Physician otherwise (taking into account the advice of the WCDHB Clinical Nurse Specialist - Infection Control).
- 1.08 All actions taken by WCDHB staff in relation to the management of a patient with a suspected Notifiable Disease are to be documented in the patient's clinical record as per the requirements of the WCDHB Clinical Documentation Procedure.

7. Precautions And Considerations

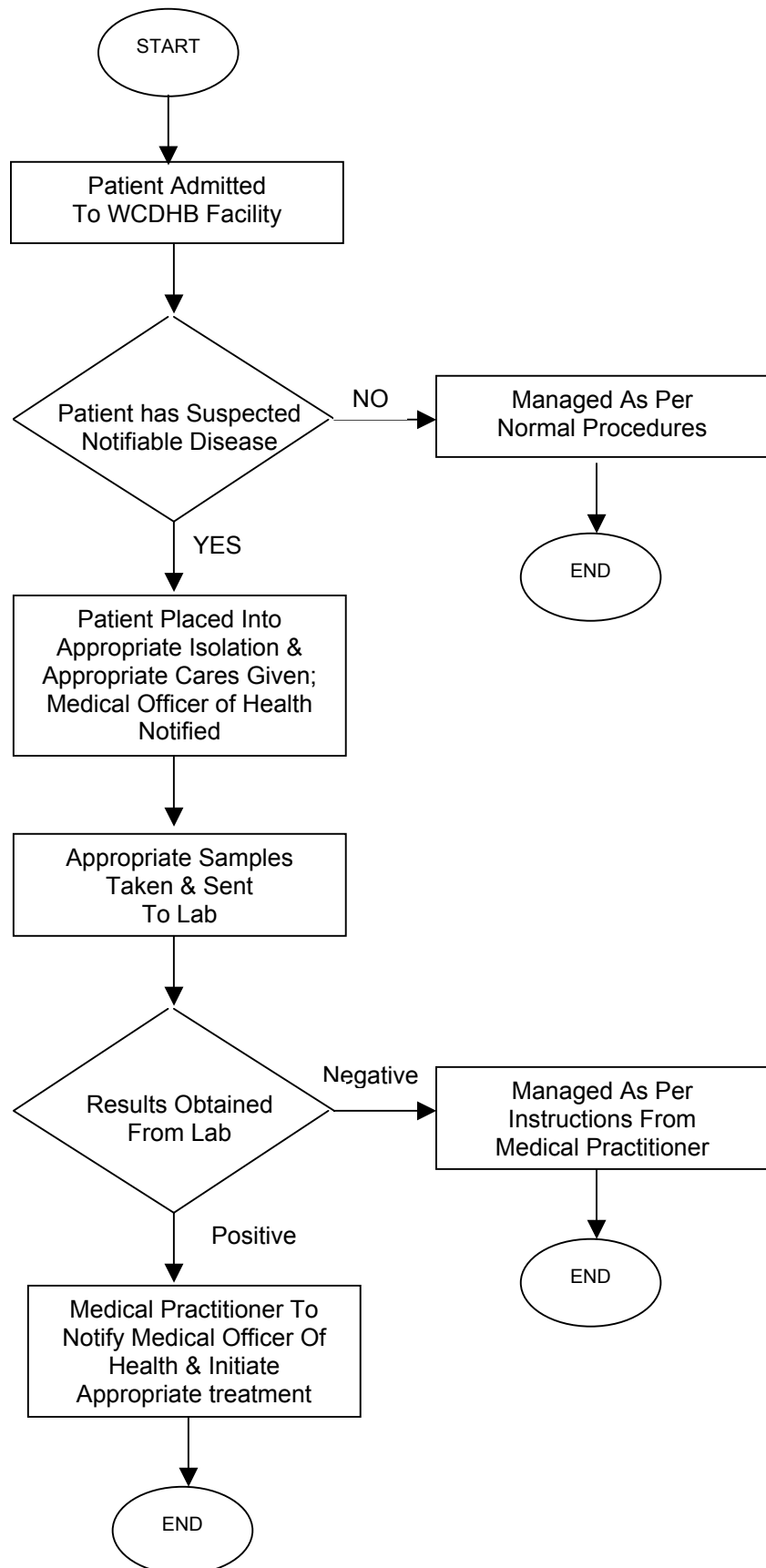
- ➔ Medical practitioners have a legal requirement to notify the Medical Officer of Health of any Notifiable Disease they suspect or clinically diagnose.
- ➔ On admission to a WCDHB facility any patient who the admitting medical practitioner suspects has a Notifiable Disease is to be immediately placed into the appropriate form of isolation

8. References

Ministry of Health Communicable Disease Control Manual

9. Related Documents

WCDHB Notification Of Infectious Diseases Procedure





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	Developed By:	Infection Control Coordinator
	Authorised By:	GM - Operations
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