

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

PATIENT SCREENING AND REFERRAL

GUIDELINES FOR PHARMACISTS

The symptoms of Ebola virus disease (EVD) may be similar to those of influenza or a common cold. If a person suspected of being infected comes to the pharmacy, take the following steps:

STEP 1: ASK IF THE PERSON:

- a. Has a fever of $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or has had a fever in the past 24 hours.
- b. Has cared for or come into contact with the body fluids of someone known or strongly suspected to have EVD, or has been to an Ebola-affected area in the previous 21 days. Body fluids include blood, saliva, mucus, vomitus, urine, stool, semen, vaginal discharge, sweat, tears, breast milk, bile and phlegm.

If the answer to BOTH questions is YES, Ebola should be suspected and Step 2 should be taken.

Other initial symptom of EVD may include:

- Headache
- Joint and muscle aches
- Sore throat
- Intense weakness
- Stomach cramps
- Diarrhoea
- Vomiting
- Bleeding (e.g. from nose or mouth, or blood in diarrhoea or vomit)

STEP 2: REFER THE SUSPECTED CASE

- a. Isolate the patient in a separate room whenever possible; and
- b. Contact the appropriate emergency services. (Ask them to send a team of trained and protected professionals to transport the person to the appointed health facility.)

If you know or suspect that someone in your community may have EVD, encourage and support that person to seek immediate appropriate medical treatment in a suitable healthcare facility. People with EVD should not be treated at home.