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Universal Precautions Kit

To the Editor:

The Bath Veterans Administration Medical Center is a large primary care facility that includes a Domiciliary, Nursing Home Care Unit, and intermediate beds as well as 70 acute medical beds and 26 psychiatric beds. As we have no surgical department, it is often necessary to transport patients over fairly great distances to other facilities for care.

In this age of Universal Precautions and the Bloodborne Pathogen Hazard Standards, we have developed a packet that accompanies all vehicles transporting patients to other facilities called the "Universal Precautions Kit" (UPK), which contains 4 to 6 pairs of large latex gloves, 2 mask/shields, 2 gowns, 6 chux, 4 4 × 4 gauze, 4 2 x2 gauze, 1 kerlex, 1 one-inch silk tape, 1 red bag, 1 CPR mask, and 1 dissolvable liner.

These kits are packaged in clear, self-sealing plastic bags, making it possible to determine easily if a kit has been opened and needs to be restocked.

A kit has also been placed in each of the sections of the domiciliary in the event of an emergency, as these units are separate and some distance from the main hospital building.

We feel this will ensure better protection for the staff as well as better care for the patient and that the idea could be used by other facilities.

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