Resuscitation in the Home during COVID-19

April 21, 2020

This information is intended to help home health care providers and others to reduce the risk for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) transmission regarding the resuscitation of patients in the home.

During the provision of home resuscitation to COVID+ patients or PUIs, it is essential that colleagues take appropriate precautions to protect themselves, their co-workers, and other persons in the home from unnecessary exposure. Colleagues exposed to COVID-19 during emergency situations may further decrease the workforce available to continue providing care in the home setting.

**Strategies:**

1. Before entering the home of all known COVID-19 positive patient or Persons Under Investigation (PUI), don PPE per guidelines.

2. Determine whether the patient has an advance directive (DNR) if not already known.

3. Limit people in the room or on the scene to only those essential for resuscitation.

4. Quickly assess the patient following the Basic Life Support algorithm.

5. If patient does NOT meet the criteria for obvious death and does NOT have a DNR, dial 911 to activate EMS first as time is of the essence and no respirations should be provided. If a family member can make the call, assign them to do so. Clearly communicate COVID-19 status (if known) to any EMS providers before their arrival on the scene.

6. Place a face mask or cloth over the mouth and nose of victim to block any airborne secretions and reduce the risk of transmission.

7. Begin chest compressions: Colleagues should perform hands-only CPR after recognition of a cardiac or respiratory arrest event. Maintain chest compressions only until EMS arrives and takes over.

8. Ensure that documentation is reflective of verbal communication to EMS and actions taken at the scene.