Using the Ebola Risk Triage Tool Template in CPRS

The VA-Ebola Risk Triage Tool is intended for use by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) clinical staff to evaluate patients identified as having traveled to an area where Ebola Virus Disease is prevalent or having had exposure to a known Ebola patient or their body fluids within the previous 21 days. It follows the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Algorithm for Evaluation of the Returned Traveler.

A CPRS template was created that follows the CDC algorithm in guiding assessment of at-risk patients and recommending appropriate follow-up and actions based on the findings and risk level identified. The approved template, sponsored by the Office of Public Health, is intended for use throughout VA assessing these at-risk patients.

Initial identification

Initial identification of patients with travel or contact risks may be done through several different pathways, including telephone hotlines, public service announcements, and signage at the medical center, all of which will direct patients to the appropriate intake location as established by the facility. Patient check-in kiosks in clinic areas will have a screening question about travel to affected areas, and patients who enter a positive response will be immediately directed to clinic staff. Clinic check-in staff may also ask the initial questions about travel or contact and will also immediately direct any patient with a positive response to clinical staff in compliance with locally established protocols.
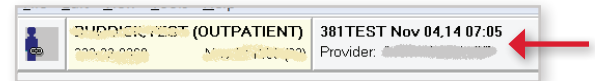
The VA Ebola Risk Triage Tool is intended for use by clinicians who assess patients referred through any of these pathways.
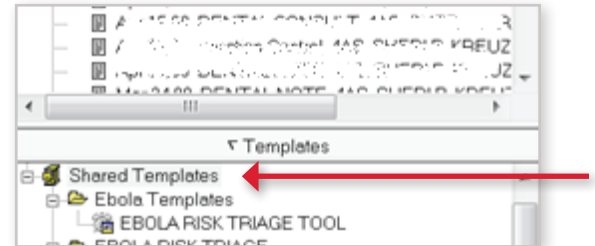
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How to document Ebola risk in CPRS

Before documenting Ebola Risk, contact your facility's Health Informatics Specialist/Clinical Applications Coordinator for the note title you should use and the location of the Ebola Risk Triage Tool under Shared Templates.
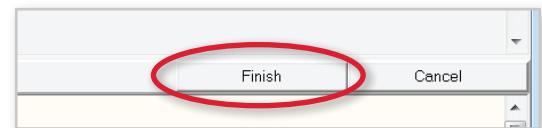
1. Access CPRS and select your patient.

2. Go to the Notes tab.

3. Select New Note (ensure that you have a location displaying in the visit box).

4. Select the note title that your facility is using to document Ebola Risk.

5. Select the Template box and open Shared Templates.

6. Scroll to Ebola Risk Triage Tool and select the template.

7. Once it opens complete the necessary information.

8. Select Finish button.

9. Review and electronically sign your note.

Step 3: Select New Note

Step 5: Open Shared Templates

Step 8: Select Finish button

If you have issues documenting Ebola Risk, contact your facility's Health Informatics Specialist/Clinical Applications Coordinator or Infection Control POC.

HIS/CAC contact

Infection Control contact

For more information about Ebola, click on the following resources:

CDC Ebola website http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/ – contains the most updated information on the Ebola virus outbreak

Checklist for Patients Being Evaluated for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the United States
http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/checklist-patients-evaluated-us-evd.pdf

Ebola – CDC Algorithm for Evaluation of the Returned Traveler http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ebola-algorithm.pdf

Informational PowerPoint: Ebola Facts http://www.accme.org/news-publications/publications/public-health-resources/ebola-facts

FAQ: Safe Management of Patients with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in US Hospitals
http://www.accme.org/news-publications/publications/public-health-resources/faq-safe-management-patients-ebola-virus

Ebola Education Web page (CME) http://www.accme.org/cme-addresses-ebola

Johns Hopkins Ebola symposium http://hub.jhu.edu/2014/10/14/ebola-experts-johns-hopkins

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