



Situation: Emergency Medication Kits taken into isolation rooms become contaminated.

Background:

- Some medication syringes stocked in Emergency Medication Kits are impacted by acute and chronic nationwide shortages (e.g., epinephrine, lidocaine).
- Contaminated Emergency Medication Kits potentially pose an infection control risk to other healthcare professionals and deplete the number of circulating emergency kits hospital-wide.
- **ALL** contaminated medications inside of the kit **MUST** be discarded on the patient care floor.

Assessment:

- We need to keep our patients safe and protect our employees from potential exposure while maintaining a supply of emergently needed medications.
- Per Infection Control Isolation Precautions Policy IIC-113 (https://intranet.lifespan.org/sites/default/files/IC_IsolationPrecautionsFinalwithAppendices_052019_1.pdf), “the code cart should remain outside of the room, if possible, to minimize contamination”. The medication kit is part of the code cart and should also remain **OUTSIDE** of the room.

Recommendation:

- **ONLY NEEDED** medications for patient care should enter patient rooms.
- Critical Care rooms in the RIH Adult Emergency Department now have “Virtual” Emergency Code Kits where urgent medications can be removed from the Omnicell without the need to open a code cart. This option can be expanded to other patient care areas treating a high number of COVID-19 positive or PUI patients. Please contact Pharmacy for more information.
- All medications leaving an isolation room, should be properly disposed of on the patient care unit and the medication tray should be wiped down using disinfectant wipes and returned to Central Services Department (CSD) for cleaning.