Update on BJH/WUSM preparedness October 17, 2014

Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University leadership want to ensure that we keep you updated on the plan for any patients with known or suspected Ebola. We currently have no cases of known or suspected Ebola at BJH.

New Changes in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the Centers for Disease Control

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced new guidelines for PPE and equipment. Teams across BJC and WUSM infectious disease specialists are reviewing the new guidelines which will be put into our protocols. Planned training for staff will continue over the weekend at BJH and the new protocols will be incorporated as we work to order the new supplies. More information will be shared as we learn details.

PPE Training – Specialized Teams Approach
We are committed to train our team members in areas where suspected Ebola patients are likely to present and receive treatment. These include the BJH ED, 84ICU, the Center for Outpatient Health clinics and the Pregnancy Assessment Center. We will be using a “special teams” approach to take a core group of these team members and train them to the greatest proficiency. While all team members and physicians will be trained in PPE in these areas, these “super users” will be on call to assist their teammates with any suspected Ebola patients.

First Ebola Patient Transport Drill
This morning, a team from the BJH ED, ancillary services, infection control, respiratory care, environmental health & safety, as well as attending physicians in emergency medicine and critical care, participated in a drill that simulated the intake of a suspected Ebola patient in the ED. The “patient” was then transported to 84ICU using the pre-determined protocols in our Ebola plan. Drills are performed to determine our level of proficiency and are designed to help us to identify opportunities for improvement and to reveal any gaps in our protocols. Like all drills, we identified areas for opportunity. We will continue to train and exercise and learn to create the safest environment possible for our team members, physicians, patients and visitors.

How can I get more information about Ebola?
We will be providing frequent email updates to you and a BJHnet intranet site will be available next week and a Faculty Practice Plan site is under development. In addition, you can access more information at the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola.