

Mpox Assessment and testing pathway for use in HIV/STI/ID Clinical Setting



A person who since 15th March 2022 has had, **one or more of the following**¹:

- Unexplained recent onset generalised rash,
- An mpox compatible vesicular-pustular rash,
- Oro/ano-genital lesions,
- Proctitis (rectal pain/tenesmus),
- One or more classical symptoms of mpox infection†,

AND one or more of

- * An epidemiological link to a confirmed or probable case of mpox in the 21 days before symptom onset,
- * Is gay, bisexual or other man who has sex with men (gbMSM),
- * Reports a change in sexual partners in the 21 days prior to symptom onset (regardless of sexual orientation),
- * Has a travel history to an mpox endemic country* in the 21 days before symptom onset.

† Acute illness with fever (>38.5°C), headache, myalgia, arthralgia, back pain, lymphadenopathy, asthenia

¹ A clinician with experience in diagnosing MPXV may test individuals with a compatible clinical presentation in the absence of epidemiological criteria



Differential diagnoses: Varicella, Herpes Simplex Virus, Early Infectious Syphilis.

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS at all times for all patients. **conduct point of care risk assessment and**

Contact, Droplet, Airborne Precautions

For suspected/confirmed cases of mpox

1. Respirator Mask: FFP2/FFP3
2. Eye protection: Goggles/Visor
3. Disposable nitrile gloves
4. Impervious Long-sleeved gown
5. Place patient in a single room with negative pressure ventilation (if available)

NOTE:
Waste: Handle as **Category B** waste
***Airborne precautions may be stepped down if deemed appropriate following a risk assessment**
Any decision to change the level of IPC precautions will require a risk assessment undertaken by local IPC team in conjunction with clinical team

If probable case based on above criteria

If probable case definition met, treating clinician should:

- Perform clinical assessment and test for mpox
- Sample will also be tested for Varicella and Herpes Simplex Virus
- Inform Local Laboratory (or NVRL if no local laboratory co-located) of probable mpox samples
- Collect a swab of the lesion or lesion fluid in viral transport medium. If there is no lesion but mpox is still suspected please collect a throat swab in viral transport medium.
- When testing for mpox, essential reading on this process should be reviewed, please see [sample collection and lab transport guidance](#)
- Collect information on contacts in the setting to help contact tracing if the person becomes a confirmed case
- Differentiate between need for Home/Community management or Acute Hospital Management

Discharge to community

- Patients should be advised to remain in self-isolation pending test result
- The patient may be driven home by a person who has already had significant exposure to the case
- The patient may drive home if feeling well enough to drive.
- Where private transport is not available, public transport can be used but busy periods should be avoided. Any lesions should be covered by cloth (for example scarves or bandages) and a face covering must be worn. If public or private transport is not available, **planned scheduled transport** through the National Ambulance Service (on 0818 501 999) is possible. This must only be triggered by ID/GUM or Public Health clinician, stating that it is a planned scheduled transport situation.
- Patient and household contacts are asked to adhere to Public Health advice on reducing their contacts and preventing infection.

Admission to hospital

- Treating clinician determines need for admission for care and discusses with locally agreed unit to arrange admission so they can prepare IPC measures and a named designated area.
- Contact the National Ambulance Service (NAS) on 0818 501 999 and indicate status of patient including mpox probable case status and the exact designated location for transfer by NAS to hospital. If the person is critically unwell the clinician should call 112/999
- ISOLATE in a single room if possible, even if the patient is vaccinated i.e. if given Imvanex on admission
- **STANDARD, CONTACT, DROPLET & AIRBORNE PRECAUTIONS**
- Continue isolation in a single room (with negative pressure ventilation if available) while awaiting test results.

LABORATORY TEST POSITIVE

- **Laboratory to inform clinician and Public Health**
- All patient management to be supported by input from **ID Clinician/Microbiologist in line with IPC guidance**

LABORATORY TEST NOT DETECTED
 Maintain IPC precautions until discussed with IPC team.