October 23, 2014

Ebola Procedures:

In light of the recent communications from the CDC and Snohomish County Health District, the following changes will be implemented in Safe Harbor Free Clinic immediately.

When making appointments:

1. Ask the patient if they have traveled outside of the US in the last month. If, yes, then ask where.
2. If the answer is Liberia, Sierra Leone or Guinea or Africa then inform them that they will need to seek care from another source and that they should contact the health department at 425-339-5278, if they are experiencing flu like symptoms. Make sure and obtain patient’s name and telephone # and pass this information on to the Executive Director or Clinic Manager to pass on to the health department.

In Clinic:

1. A ½ sheet questionnaire will be added to our intake forms. This will include questions such as whether a person has traveled to Liberia, Sierra Leone or Guinea within the past 21 days and have had a fever of 100.4 or above and experiencing flu like symptoms. This will be available at the next clinic.
2. If patient answers yes to any of these questions, the front desk person or greeter will take the clipboard to the Back Nurse and inform the Clinic Manager. Do not panic!!!!
3. Patient will be escorted to exam room 1 and door closed, informing patient that they will be quarantined until such a time as the Health Department can advise of the next steps.
4. Clinic Manager will evacuate the clinic immediately and contact the appropriate agencies for further instructions and leave the building also, after locking dispensary and door to offices.
5. Clinic manager will contact the Executive Director and Medical Director immediately.
6. Executive Director, Clinic Manager and Medical Director will work with agencies to transport patient to the appropriate facility for treatment.
7. After patient has been removed from the facility, sterilization of facility will begin with PPE procedures.
8. All volunteers that have come in contact with patient will be asked to wash hands and arms thoroughly with alcohol based hand soap and followed with alcohol based hand sanitizer.
9. Please remember Ebola is only passed through body fluids.

The above procedure has been implemented per the agencies listed above. We have also implemented the cleaning of the clinic with a special cleaning aid recommended by the CDC which contains hydrogen peroxide. This is available in wipe and spray form. Please wear gloves when using. Safe Harbor has also purchased and has available Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)per CDC.

All volunteers dealing with patients bodily fluids such as blood, should always utilize PPE for protection. See clinic manager for details on where you may find this equipment.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Julie Vess, Executive Director at 425-328-7055