



**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

System       Department

**Supersedes:**

Section: Biocontainment Unit

Subject: Isopod Set-up

Number: 1163

Attachments:

Date Effective: June 2006

January 2008; December 2011; March 2013; June 2015, September 2016, November 2017, July

Date Reviewed: 2018,

**Nebraska Medical Center  
Biocontainment Unit  
Isopod Set-up**

**Policy:**

The Nebraska Biocontainment Unit (NBU) has a self-contained, disposable Isopod which provides safe transportation of a patient with a highly hazardous communicable disease.

**Purpose:**

Instructions on how to set-up the Isopod to allow for the safe transportation of a patient with a highly hazardous communicable disease.

**Points to consider:**

- The patient will most likely feel anxiety towards getting into the isopod, therefore provide comfort and reassurance.
- It may be necessary to include needed equipment (ambu bag, mask, portable suction, dressing packs etc...). Remember the snorkels on each end of the isopod are for passing in small items or for IV/O2 tubing. DO NOT use these for passing items out of the isopod during transportation.
- If the transfer is expected to take a considerable amount of time, consider placing a Foley catheter before transfer.
- Include a pillow for comfort.
- If the patient cannot lay supine, remove the isopod second rib. This will allow for the head of the isopod to be raised.
- If one of the gloves is breached, contain the breach by twisting the glove and taping it in its socket.

**The isopod when properly set-up provides a negative pressure environment for the patient with twelve (12) air exchanges per hour. All exiting air is filtered through the HEPA filters.**

**Equipment:**

Isopod  
3 HEPA filters  
1 battery powered blower  
Cart  
Bleach wipes (new container)

## PROCEDURE:

### In a clean area:

1. Remove the isopod from the duffel bag.
2. Unfold the isopod and place on a patient transport cart. The sides of the isopod should be folded down with the internal surfaces facing outwards. Do not connect the ribs or rods at this time.
3. Remove 3 filters and 1 battery-powered blower with the connecting tubing from the bag.
4. Remove the green plugs from the filters and keep in the duffel bag.
5. Attach a HEPA filter to the left and right external outlets at the head of the isopod.
6. Attach the battery-powered blower to the right external outlet at the foot of the isopod.
7. Place the battery-powered blower in the holder and secure the flap with the Velcro.
8. Attach the connector hose to the blower and the inlet that is labeled blower on the Isopod and secure with the Velcro strap. (figure 1)  
\* The end with the elbow attaches to the Isopod.
9. Attach the HEPA/OV/AG filter to the right internal outlet at the foot of the Isopod.
10. Perform a safety check to ensure all filters and connections are secure. (figure 3)
11. Transfer the isopod to the patient collection area.

### Patient Collection Area:

1. If the patient can transfer themselves, allow them to get onto the opened isopod by themselves. If they need assistance to transfer, use a patient slider board. Do not leave the slider board inside the isopod.
2. If a back board is needed during transport, place it in the designated pocket. (figure 2)
3. Secure the patient inside the isopod using the straps provided.
4. Connect the ribs and rods to provide stability for the isopod.
5. Fasten the isopod zipper and turn on the battery powered blower.
6. Wipe all external surfaces with bleach wipes (from a newly opened container).



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

**Staff Accountability:**

Nebraska Biocontainment Unit Leadership  
Nebraska Biocontainment Unit Policy and Procedure Workgroup

**Department Approval**

Signed | s |: Kate Boulter  
Title: Nurse Manager  
Department: NBU

**Administrative Approval**

Signed | s |: Michele Schwedhelm  
Title: Executive Director