

**Baylor Scott & White Health Ethics Stance on Medical Treatment
in the Setting of Potentially Communicable Life Threatening Disease**

Our responsibility for the welfare of a patient with a potentially communicable life threatening disease will be balanced with protection of BSWH staff for the benefit of the public that we serve.

Derivative actions:

1. BSWH will offer all medically appropriate interventions that we can safely provide without jeopardizing our staff. If a higher level of treatment that might benefit the patient is available elsewhere, we will facilitate transfer to the best of our capacity and capabilities to the receiving facility that is able to offer the higher level of care.
2. Medical interventions that cannot be safely offered by our staff will not be offered. Thus, we will isolate the patient to prevent spread of disease to the best of our capacity and capabilities and transfer as soon as possible to a facility able to safely provide treatment.
3. The absence of Treatment level personal protective equipment (PPE) or training in the use of PPE is a direct contraindication to providing safe medical interventions in the setting of life threatening communicable disease. In the absence of PPE or training in the use of PPE, BSWH staff should escort the patient to an isolation area and help facilitate transfer to a facility able to safely provide treatment.
4. BSWH will not offer non-beneficial medical interventions. We will rely on medical judgment and/or established hospital policy on a case-by-case basis in guiding decisions about when an intervention is considered non-beneficial.