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In the event of a delay in handing over your patient at the receiving facility, clinicians must follow the local processes in place with regards to arrival notification and escalations. Where, under exceptional circumstances, it is necessary for the patient to remain in the ambulance whilst awaiting hospital handover, the following IPC precautions should be considered as good practice and adopted where reasonably practical:

**Minimise** the number Consider of individuals patient positioning within the patient and where practical compartment, consider avoid sitting whether more than face-to-face. one member of ambulance staff is required. Keep the Infection ventilation systems **Ensure Prevention** running (set to extract that all individuals where possible), where within the vehicle & Control it is not practical to keep wear surgical the vehicle running facemasks (providing **Precautions** continuously consider this does not periodically starting it during hospital compromise clinical or opening the doors care e.g. oxygen for a short period to handover therapy). allow natural delays ventilation. Decontaminate Where more contact surfaces than one clinician is more frequently; where available, the clinician practical this should be providing care to carried out during the the patient should be delay to reduce the rotated regularly, environmental if possible. contamination levels.

There is *no requirement to increase the level of PPE* worn by the clinicians unless the level of care/ clinical interventions indicate that a different level of PPE is required. The guidance, which has considered the new variants remains that level 2 PPE is adequate for direct care of COVID patients unless high-risk AGPs are being undertaken, whereby level 3 should be worn.

This should be based upon the individual's dynamic risk assessment, with consideration of the transmission route and PPE guidance. There is no evidence that increasing the level of PPE in non-AGP scenarios provides any additional protection.

REMEMBER: As a member of the *NHS* you are a role model in your community. Please behave responsibly in applying Infection, Prevention & Control measures AT ALL TIMES to protect yourself - in doing so you protect your patients, your colleagues, your loved ones and all those you meet.