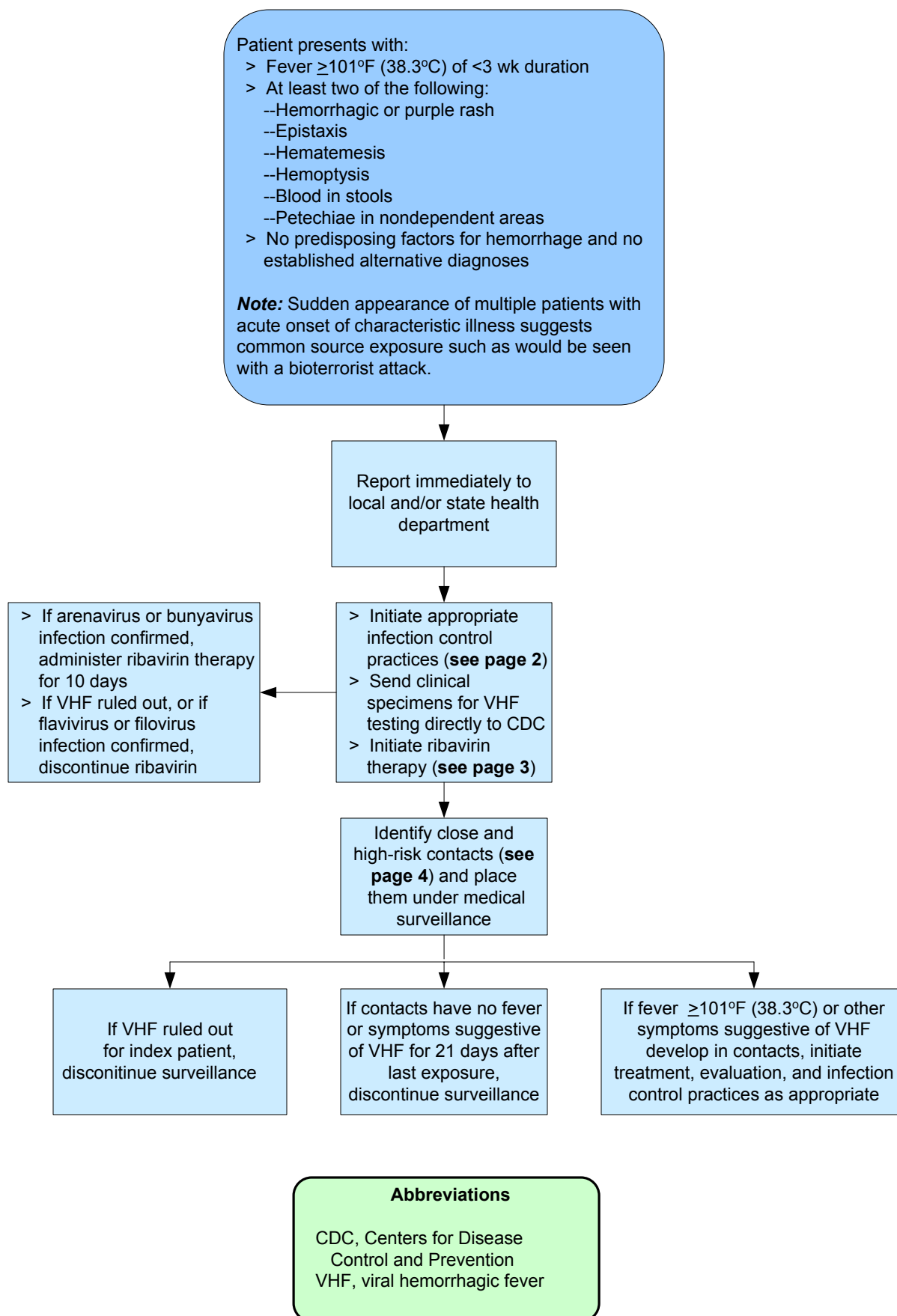


Clinical Pathway: Viral Hemorrhagic Fever



| Isolation Precautions for Patients with Suspected Viral Hemorrhagic Fever | |
|--|---|
| Type of Precaution | Procedures |
| Airborne Precautions | Place the patient in a private room with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative air pressure • 6 to 12 air changes per hour • Restricted access of nonessential staff and visitors |
| VHF-specific personal protective equipment* | Provide the following PPE for healthcare providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N-95 respirator or powered air-purifying respirator • Double gloves • Impermeable gowns • Face shields • Goggles for eye protection • Leg and shoe coverings |
| Hand hygiene | All healthcare providers should adhere to the following practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean hands prior to donning PPE for patient contact • After patient care, remove gloves, gown, and leg and shoe coverings, and immediately clean hands • Clean hands prior to the removal of facial protective equipment to minimize exposure of mucous membranes with potentially contaminated hands • Clean hands again after all PPE is removed |
| Handling of medical equipment | Dedicate medical equipment such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stethoscopes • Blood pressure cuffs • Glucose monitors • Point-of-care analyzers (if available) |
| Environmental decontamination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental surfaces, inanimate contaminated objects, or contaminated equipment should be disinfected with an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant or a 1:100 dilution of household bleach using standard procedures • Contaminated linens should be incinerated, autoclaved, or placed in double (ie, leak-proof bags) bags at the site of use and washed without sorting in a normal hot water cycle with bleach • Hospital housekeeping staff and linen handlers should wear appropriate PPE when handling or cleaning potential contaminated material or surfaces |
| Patient cohorting | If multiple patients with suspected VHF are admitted to one healthcare facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohort them in the same part of the hospital to minimize exposure to other patients and healthcare workers • Dedicate staff trained in appropriate infection control practices to care for them • If large number of patients must be cared for in 1 facility, then recommendations to place all patients under Airborne Precautions (see above) may need to be modified |
| <i>Abbreviations:</i> EPA, Environmental Protection Agency; PPE, personal protective equipment; VHF, viral hemorrhagic fever. | |
| *The most common forms of exposure involve accidental parenteral inoculation; therefore, particular attention should be paid to handling of needles and sharp instruments. | |