

HealthShare PTOs no longer required to clean vehicle after transporting infectious patients

Dear Member,

The HSU notes the recent publication of the Patient Transport Service Factsheet signed by the PTS Manager, which HSU believes is a not-so-veiled attempt to apportion blame for the loss of your infectious cleaning allowance.

We believe that perhaps PTOs should never have been cleaning vehicles, stretchers or any other surface after the transportation of an infectious patient; however, as you have been carrying out this duty, we believe that you should have been paid the infectious cleaning allowance accordingly.

The HSU's position on this is simple: if PTO members are to lose the allowance, then it means that the IRC has restricted infectious cleaning to only 6 classifications. And PTOs aren't on the list. PTOs can no longer be expected to clean the passenger area of the vehicle after the transportation of an infectious patient. Rather, the crew should immediately return to base after dropping the patient at their destination in order that an employee who falls under one of the below classifications can clean the vehicle and any other surface as required:

- Cleaners (Hospital Assistants Grade 1 and 2)
- Wardspersons
- Health and Security Assistants
- Patient Services Assistant (WSLHD)
- Support Services Officer (NSLHD and WSLHD)
- Patient Support Assistant (CCLHD)

We propose that this action commences on 19 June 2018. HealthShare will have to start employing more staff to clean your vehicle from that date.

As a side note, the HSU also finds it interesting that the Manager PTS has seemingly forgotten to add the below quote from the Ministry of Health Fact Sheet:

“On an interim basis, Patient Transport Officers will continue to be able to claim the allowance. Discussions are continuing with the HSU about the eligibility of this classification and further advice will be provided”.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD