

MGH Process for Ambulatory/Offsite PAPR Assessment of Need

Guiding principles:

- Provide Respiratory Protection for employees across all sites, inpatient and ambulatory
- Ensure PAPRs are only placed in areas with an identified need, where there is no alternative (N95 fit-testing has not been successful and there is no opportunity for alterations to employee workflow to preclude need for respiratory protection), and where the environment and staffing can support safe cleaning, disinfection, rehabilitation, and maintenance

Review Process:

- Request for PAPR in an Ambulatory Practice area or offsite location for the provision of patient care or clinical research for the purposes of infectious disease prevention should be made from local leadership including IC champions to Ambulatory Management via the Ambulatory Management e-mail box, accompanied by completed checklist.

Once the form is completed and submitted it will be reviewed by Ambulatory Management for reasonableness and determination of alternatives or other accommodations that could be made.

Ambulatory Management in collaboration with Infection Control makes the following determinations:

- Whether there is an identified need for a PAPR in the requesting location due to:
- Presence/absence of infection control risk
- Employee's ability or inability to undergo updated fit-testing
- Ability to alter workflows or
- Implement administrative or engineering controls to eliminate need

If AM/IC review determines that a PAPR should not be placed at this location, then they will follow up with local leadership to support alternative and/or explain rationale and document request outcome.

If AM determines that request for PAPR should undergo further review, then they will convene ad hoc committee review by contacting the relevant representative from the Infection Control Unit and Environmental Health & Safety along with the local Infection Control champion:

- Infection Control: 617-726-2036 (Pager #26346)
- Environmental Health & Safety 617-726-2425 (Pager #26517)
- Local IC champion

The 4-member committee (AM rep, IC rep, and EHS rep, local IC champion) will meet (virtually or in person) to review the specific request, assess need for respiratory protection, assess existing supports in the requesting location to support PAPR management if request is approved, and approve PAPR placement in that location.



Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) Request Checklist

All requests for PAPRs in Ambulatory settings will be reviewed by a central team including Ambulatory Management, Infection Control, and Environmental Health and Safety. If you are requesting a PAPR to support respiratory protection in your area, please complete the checklist below and submit to the Ambulatory Management e-mail box.

Name of Requesting Manager: _____

Date of Request: _____

Contact of Requesting Manager: _____

Practice Name / Location: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Employee Evaluation:

Does the employee meet Respiratory Protection Criteria? NO

- HCW who provides direct patient care, with patients that are suspected or confirmed to have disease that requires Enhanced Respiratory Isolation or Airborne Isolation and who cannot be masked, in an enclosed space (within 6 feet) of the patient for > 10 minutes
- HCW who do not provide direct patient care but work in an enclosed space (e.g. patient room, exam room) within 6 feet of patients, with patients that are suspected or confirmed to have disease that requires Enhanced Respiratory Isolation or Airborne Isolation and who cannot be masked, for > 10 minutes or who must enter the enclosed space after an aerosol-generating procedure during the room airing period
- HCW who do not provide direct patient care but may regularly be in an enclosed space (e.g. patient rooms) within 6 feet of a patient for cumulatively > 10 minutes (e.g. transport in elevator or HCWs who visit multiple patients for short periods of time), where the patient cannot be masked.

Does the employee have facial hair that interferes with an N95 respirator? NO

If yes, has the employee been asked to consider shaving? NO

Has the employee been unable to be fitted (with a fit-test) to any of the available N95 respirators? NO

Can work be shifted/rescheduled to (an) other employee(s) at this location who have been successfully fitted to N95 respirators? NO

Number of employees requiring PAPRs at this location: _____

- AM Leadership—reviews workflow and determines alternative options, determines site’s ability to support PAPR placement (e.g. storage, cleaning, etc.)
- IC Leadership—assesses employee risk and need for Respiratory Protection in this setting and determines ability for facility to support PAPR cleaning and disinfection
- EHS Leadership— assesses need for Respiratory Protection and determines location’s ability to support PAPR rehabilitation and maintenance

If a PAPR is approved to be placed in an Ambulatory setting by the ad hoc committee, the next steps are:

- Training for PAPR user(s) (EHS Lead)
 - Assignment of HealthStream Training
 - Provision of donning and doffing checklists and links to videos
 - Determination of other training needs for end users
- Identification of and training for employees who will be tasked with cleaning, disinfection, rehabilitation, restocking, and routine maintenance
 - Contact CDM staff (mghcdm@partners.org) to support training around ongoing maintenance and rehab
 - CDM will provide supporting documents for PAPR cleaning, battery maintenance, etc.
 - EHS/IC/AM responsible for review of PAPR documents/logbook
- Purchase PAPR
 - Ambulatory Management will collaborate with the local Ambulatory leadership and Materials Management to order a PAPR for the approved site using the address and cost center information provided on the submitted checklist
 - Local practice leadership/IC champion will Establish processes and funding for ordering disposable supplies (filters, hoods, hoses, flow meters, etc) to support ongoing use
- Ambulatory Management through the SPM liaison will work with local leadership and IC champion to clearly identify and delineate:
 - Processes for ongoing cleaning/disinfection, rehabilitation, and maintenance at the local level and personnel that will support
 - Collaborate with CDM to identify opportunities for training personnel who will be cleaning, rehabilitating, and maintaining PAPRs
 - Collaborate with EHS to ensure that employees who will be using the PAPR have the appropriate training to safely utilize this piece of equipment