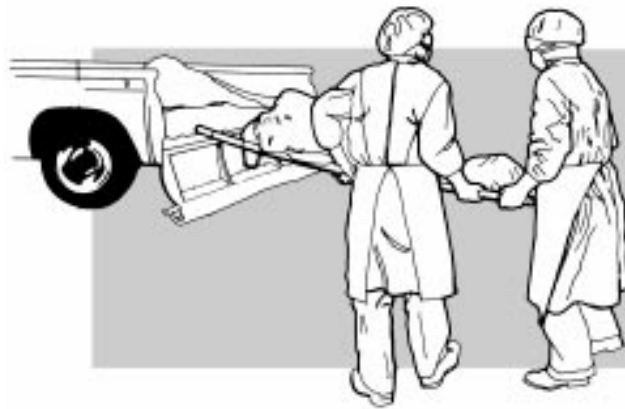


## **Section 7**

### **Use Safe Burial Practices**



This section describes how to:

- Prepare bodies of deceased VHF patients.
- Transport the body safely to the burial site.
- Disinfect the vehicle after transporting bodies.

There is risk of transmission in the health facility when a VHF patient dies because the bodies and body fluids of deceased VHF patients remain contagious for several days after death. Family and community members are also at risk if burial practices involve touching and washing the body.

### **7.1 Prepare the Body Safely**

Burial should take place as soon as possible after the body is prepared in the health facility. Health facility staff should:

- Prepare the body safely.
- Be aware of the family's cultural practices and religious beliefs. Help the family understand why some practices cannot be done because they place the family or others at risk for exposure.
- Counsel the family about why special steps need to be taken to protect the family and community from illness. If the body is prepared without giving information and support to the family and the community, they may not want to bring other family members to the health facility in the future. They may think that if the patient dies, the body will not be returned to them.
- Identify a family member who has influence with the rest of the family and who can make sure family members avoid dangerous practices such as washing or touching the body.

To prepare the body in the health facility:

1. Wear protective clothing as recommended for staff in the patient isolation area. Use thick rubber gloves as the second pair (or outer layer) of gloves.
2. Spray the body and the area around it with 1:10 bleach solution.
3. Place the body in a "body bag" (mortuary sack) and close it securely. Spray the body bag with 1:10 bleach solution.

## 7.4 Disinfect the Vehicle after Transporting the Body

1. The staff person who disinfects the vehicle must wear protective clothing.
2. Rinse the interior of the vehicle where the body was carried with 1:10 bleach solution.
3. Let it soak for 10 minutes.
4. Rinse well with clean water and let the vehicle air-dry. Be sure to rinse well because the solution is corrosive to the vehicle.

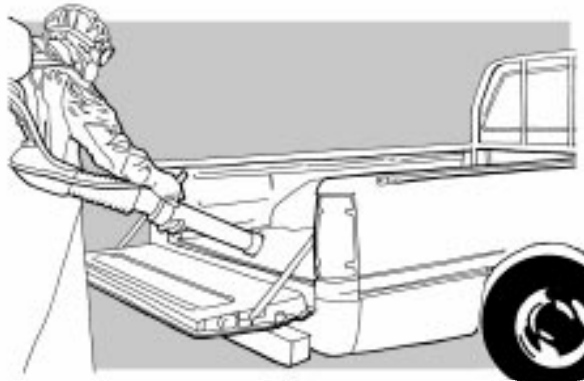


Fig. 58. Disinfecting the vehicle after transporting the body