EVALUATING PATIENTS FOR SMALLPOX
ACUTE, GENERALIZED VESICULAR OR PUSTULAR RASH ILLNESS PROTOCOL

DIFFERENTIATING CHICKENPOX FROM SMALLPOX
Chickenpox (varicella) is the most likely condition to be confused with smallpox. In chickenpox:
- No or mild prodrome
- Lesions are superficial vesicles; “swelling on a rose petal” (see photo at top)
- Lesions appear in crops, on any one part of the body there are lesions in different stages (grapes, berries, currants)
- Centripetal distribution; greater concentration of lesions on the trunk, fewer lesions on ocular membranes. May evolve to the face. Occasionally entire body equally affected.
- Initial lesions appear on the face or trunk
- Patients rarely toxic orfeverful

Smallpox (variola)
- Prodrome is severe
- Lesions are deep, umbilicated, “round pock” or “pox” (see photos at top and middle)
- Lesions appear in crops, on any one part of the body there are lesions in different stages (grapes, berries, currants)
- Lesions in the same stage of development (e.g. all are vesicles or all are papules)

RISK OF SMALLPOX
High Risk of Smallpox - Urgent Evaluation
1. Fabricated pneumonitis (defined below) AND
   2. Classic smallpox lesions (defined below & photo at top right) AND
   3. Lesions in same stage of development (defined below)

Low Risk of Smallpox - Management as Clinically Indicated
1. No fabricating pneumonia
2. Fabricated pneumonia only
3. Lesions in same stage of development (defined below)

COMMON CONDITIONS THAT MIGHT BE CONFUSED WITH SMALLPOX

Major Smallpox Criteria
- FERILE PRODROME: occurring 1-4 days before rash onset, fever ≥100°F and at least one of the following: headache, backache, bodyache, crying, vomiting, or severe diarrhea.
- CLASSIC SMALLPOX LESIONS: deep-seated, umbilicated, round pock or pustule, or vesicle; as tiny lesions may become umbilicated or confluent.
- LESIONS IN SAME STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT: on any one part of the body (e.g. all lesions on the same stage of development). Lesions in all stages of development are present on the same part of the body.

Minor Smallpox Criteria
- Confirmed exposures: greatest concentration of lesions on face and distal extremities.
- Fever occurs on the oral mucosa/papules, face, or oropharynx.
- Patients appear toxic or moribund.
- Lesions evolve from papules to pustules over days (each stage lasts 1-2 days).
- Lesions on the palms and soles.