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Title: DI – Portable X-Rays in ICU During COVID-19 Pandemic

Applies to: All HHS MRT Staff Performing X-Rays in the Intensive Care Unit at HGH

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The following guideline is suggested for obtaining portable X-rays in ICU, in order to ensure staff safety and appropriate conservation of PPE.

2.0 Policy

2.1 General Statements

- 3.1.1 In accordance with Choosing Wisely Canada, the number of x-rays ordered in the ICU should be minimized. **Chest x-rays should not be done daily or routinely** on intubated patients, unless there is a change in clinical status.
- 2.1.2 As much as possible, **portable x-rays should be bundled in ICU**. This will be twice daily at 0800 and 1600 unless a STAT x-ray is needed.

3.0 Procedure

3.1 Intensive Care Unit (ICU)

- 3.1.1 On arrival in ICU the MRT team will speak to the charge nurse to clarify which patients are COVID positive or suspected and begin with the non-COVID patients before moving to COVID positive or suspected patients. COVID-positive or suspected patients are required to be in droplet/contact precautions unless they are undergoing an aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP), which requires airborne precautions
- 3.1.2 For portable x-rays on COVID positive or suspected patients **the minimum number of required staff** should enter the patient's room. The patient's door should remain closed except for initial entry and exit of the MRT team and portable x-ray machine.

3.2 Ventilator Disconnect

- 3.2.1 All staff assisting with portable x-rays are in close proximity to the patient's endotracheal tube (ETT) and at risk for exposure from ventilator disconnect.
- 3.2.2 To prevent disconnect, consider a bolus of sedation or paralytic to prevent coughing and designate one staff (RN or RT) responsible for securing the ETT during x-ray.

3.3 Personal Protective Equipment

- 3.3.1 PPE selection for assisting with a portable x-ray is based on a Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) and strict adherence to the PPE Conservation Strategies of Extended- use. Therefore, PPE selection may not be the same for all staff assisting with a portable x-ray.
- 3.3.2 MRT Team to keep the same mask and eye protection on, only changing gown and gloves between patient encounters.
- 3.2.3 In general, for a COVID positive or suspect **non-ventilated and ventilated** patient- MRT Team requires a surgical procedure mask, eye protection, yellow fabric gown and gloves.
- 3.2.4 For AGMPs in progress (e.g. AIRVO, CPAP, BiPAP) N95 respirators required.
- 3.3.5 MRT's entering the ICU should review all patients requiring a portable x-ray and prioritize accordingly.

4.0 Cross References

[Universal Masking and Extended Use](#)
[Point of Care Risk Assessment](#)

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5.0 External References

[Choosing Wisely Canada](#)

6.0 Developed By

Critical Care Physician
Diagnostic Imaging

7.0 In Consultation With

Infection Prevention and Control
HHS COVID-19 Subject Matter Expert Group

8.0 Approved By

HHS COVID-19 Corporate Command Centre

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