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Title: EDM – Pediatric Code blue Response for Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Patients

Applies to: All Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) Staff, Hospital Affiliates (i.e. contract staff, volunteers, learners) and members of the Medical, Dental and Midwifery Staff.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 All infections have the potential to put healthcare providers at risk. Existing Infection Control Policy (IC – Routine Practices) requires that a Risk Assessment be performed prior to interaction with a patient or their environment to determine which interventions are required to prevent transmission during the planned interaction.

1.2 Code Blue events are unplanned interactions and as such it is important to pre-plan and provide clear direction regarding how the Code Team should proceed with confirmed or suspected (rule-out) COVID-19 patients.

1.2 Above all, responding Code Blue team members must ensure their adequate safety and protection through donning PPE appropriate for the clinical situation. Please see separate guideline for when standard droplet contact PPE vs. PPE for Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMP) should be used for confirmed or suspected (rule-out) COVID-19 patients. It is important for ward staff to be aware that donning of appropriate PPE for AGMP [IC - Precautions for Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures](#) e.g. CPR can take up to 10 minutes and as such all efforts should be taken to avoid a Code Blue scenario insofar as this is possible.

1.4 If a treating staff member e.g. first responder finds the patient in cardiac arrest and is not in appropriate PPE to perform AGMP such as CPR, they must remove themselves from the patient room and don appropriate PPE *even if this means a delay in initiating CPR.*

3.0 Policy

3.1 General Statements

3.1.1 This document is applicable to Pediatric Code Blue calls originating at the MUMC site. It is **not** applicable for patients/situations where the Emergency Physician is MRP.

3.2 Code Blue Team Response Procedure

3.2.1 The responsible medical team and ward staff is responsible for identifying to responding Code team members whether a patient is suspected or confirmed COVID-19

3.2.2 A maximum of 4 people will initially enter the room of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient: Code captain (MD), RRT for airway management, resident/RN for cardiac compressions and 1 other RN. If advanced airway management e.g. intubation is emergently required, a 5th team member (Anesthesia MD) may enter. If a second compressor is required, they may enter the room as requested by the Code Captain.

3.2.3 The appropriate PPE must be donned prior to room entry. Individuals who do not possess valid N95 fit testing will not be permitted to enter the room when AGMP are anticipated or in progress (no exceptions).

3.2.4 Medication RN and the Recorder RN are to remain outside of the room; essential medications can be handed to a team member inside the room as needed with an effort to minimize the number of times the door is opened.

3.2.5 The door of the patient's room is to remain closed during the Code Blue event and only opened to allow passage of critical medications and/or equipment.

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- 3.2.6 The Code Cart is to remain outside of the patient’s room. The defibrillator can be handed to a team member inside the room if needed.
- 3.2.7 AGMP should be avoided unless they are emergent/potentially life-saving; ideally these procedures will be performed in the PICU.
- 3.2.8 If the patient is successfully resuscitated and requires transport to the ICU, please follow guidelines for transport of COVID positive or suspected patients.
- 3.2.9 Where a patient is to remain on the ward e.g. expired or non-critically ill, Code Blue Team members must carefully doff their PPE under observation by a buddy and leave this in a bag in the patient’s room.
- 3.2.10 Contaminated equipment that is not disposable should be placed in a bag in the patient’s room for later decontamination.

4.0 Cross References

- [IC - Precautions for Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures](#)
- [EDM - Adult Protected Code Blue during COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [EDM - Code Blue Arrest Protocol - Hamilton Health Sciences](#)

5.0 Developed By

HHS Corporate Code Blue Committee

11.0 In Consultation With

Infection Prevention and Control
COVID-19 Subject Matter Expert Group

12.0 Approved By

HHS COVID-19 Corporate Command Centre

Keyword Assignment	COVID-19, covid, coronavirus, cardiac arrest
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