

## **Protected Code Blue Teams at Hamilton Health Sciences General and Juravinski Sites**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, HHS developed protocols for 24/7 in-house ICU physician coverage and/or a protected code teams to protect frontline workers and continue to provide high quality care to critically ill patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, including cardiac arrest care and airway management. With rising numbers of COVID positive and COVID probable patients in hospital at the Hamilton General and Juravinski Sites, HHS recognizes the need to provide specialized full time ICU physician coverage and/or protected code blue teams to manage these patients.

### **Current Code Blue/Pre-Emptive Code Blue Model**

- **General Site**
  - Daytime 0700-1700:
    - RACE physician
    - SMR
    - Anesthesia resident
    - 3 critical care RNs
    - 2 RTs
  - Nighttime 1700-0700:
    - SMR
    - Anesthesia resident
    - 3 critical care RNs
    - 2 RTs
- **Juravinski Site**
  - Daytime 0800-1700:
    - RACE physician
    - SMR
    - 3 critical care RNs
    - 2 RTs
  - Nighttime 1700-0800:
    - SMR
    - 3 critical care RNs
    - 2 RTs

### **Proposed changes to Critical Care Unit coverage and Code Blue or Pre-Emptive Code Blue during COVID-19**

COVID-19 related demands may require dedicated physician services for management of critically ill COVID-19 patients as well as in-hospital Code Blue or pre-emptive Code Blue response teams. The roll out of enhanced physician services will occur in phases. The physician support for each phase is outlined below. The decision to transition from one phase to another is the responsibility of the Chief of Critical Care in collaboration with the Corporate Code Blue Committee and physician leaders at each HHS site.

<b>Phase 1</b> <b>Partial Additional PCB Coverage</b>
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- **General Site** – COVID ICU (ICU South) moves to 24 hour on-site intensivist coverage
  - Daytime 0700-1900 (no added PCB physician)
    - COVID ICU MD (ICU South) will act as PCB team leader
    - SMR
    - Anesthesia resident
    - 3 critical care RNs
    - 2 RTs
  - Nighttime 1900-0700 (no added PCB physician)
    - In-house COVID ICU MD (ICU South) will act as PCB team leader
    - SMR
    - Anesthesia resident
    - 3 critical care RNs
    - 2 RTs

**For non-code blue events,** RACE team will delineate physician consultation:

- Respiratory distress and/or need for airway capture – on-site physician (ICU or PCB)
- All other RACE calls will be referred to on-service RACE physician

- **Juravinski Site**
  - Daytime 0700-1900 (no added PCB physician)
    - RACE physician (PCB team leader)
    - SMR
    - 3 critical care RNs
    - 2 RTs
  - Nighttime 1900-0700: (added PCB physician)
    - PCB physician (Anesthesiology, ICU, ER MDs)
    - SMR
    - 3 critical care RNs
    - 2 RTs

**For non-code blue events,** RACE team will delineate physician consultation:

- Respiratory distress and/or need for airway capture, or critically ill patient requiring immediate MD attention – on-site physician (ICU or PCB)
- All other RACE calls will be referred to on-service RACE physician

<b>Phase 2</b> <b>Full Additional PCB Coverage</b>
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- **General Site**
  - Daytime 0700-1900 (added PCB physician)
    - PCB physician (COVID ICU MD will remain to manage COVID ICU only)
    - SMR
    - Anesthesia resident
    - 3 critical care RNs
    - 2 RTs
  - Nighttime 1900-0700 (added PCB physician)
    - PCB physician (COVID ICU MD will remain to manage COVID ICU only)
    - SMR
    - Anesthesia resident
    - 3 critical care RNs
    - 2 RTs

**For non-code blue events,** RACE team will delineate physician consultation:

- Respiratory distress and/or need for airway capture – PCB physician
- All other RACE calls will be referred to on-service RACE physician

- **Juravinski Site**
  - Daytime 0700-1900 (added PCB physician)
    - PCB physician
    - SMR
    - 3 critical care RNs
    - 2 RTs
  - Nighttime 1900-0700 (added PCB physician)
    - PCB physician
    - SMR
    - 3 critical care RNs
    - 2 RTs

**For non-code blue events,** RACE team will delineate physician consultation:

- Respiratory distress and/or need for airway capture, or critically ill patient requiring immediate MD attention – PCB physician
- All other RACE calls will be referred to on-service RACE physician

**Launch of Phase 1:**

**December 15<sup>th</sup> at 1900 – Juravinski site** (PCB shifts will be covered by JH intensivists until December 21<sup>st</sup> and subsequently by multidisciplinary team composed of Anesthesiologists, Intensivists and Emergency Room physicians.

**December 17<sup>th</sup> at 1900 – General site** (24 hour on-site intensivist coverage)

**PCB Team**

An expression of interest was sent on December 15<sup>th</sup> inviting qualified physicians to join the PCB team. The PCB team will be recruited and trained by December 21<sup>st</sup>.

The PCB team will be made up of multi-specialty physicians providing on-site COVID-appropriate resuscitation and airway capture. The PCB physician will work closely with RACE and ICU physicians. The PCB physician will be accountable to the Chief of Critical Care when on-service providing PCB care. Remuneration aligns with the Protected Code Blue MOH Temporary Physician Funding for COVID-19.

**Roles and responsibilities of the PCB Physician**

- Team leader for all protected code blues
- Responsible for airway management outside the ED, ICU, and OR, but may also respond to these areas when assistance is requested
- Be available to respond to critically ill patient requiring immediate MD attention on site
- End-of-life discussion with patients and families
- Debriefing with PCB team members after activations
- Speaking to families after code blue events, including breaking bad news
- Participation in protected code blue/protected intubation training and simulation

**Training/On-boarding of PCB Physicians**

- Overview of JH (and HGH for phase 2) site(s)
- Review of standard ACLS algorithms and discussion of modifications for potential/proven COVID patients
- Review of the HHS protected intubation protocol
- Review of PPE standards for AGMPs/non-AGMPs as per HHS policy
- Review of code blue documentation standards and expectations of PCB leader
- Review of PCB teams at each site and team roles
- Review of code blue cart medications and airway equipment available to team
- Review of the HHS COVID/suspected COVID transport policy