

THE ROLE OF AN ECMO COORDINATOR

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Disclosures

- None

OBJECTIVES

- Describe the structure of a solid ECMO program
- Describe why a program needs an ECMO coordinator
- Describe the role of an ECMO coordinator

What constitutes an established ECMO program?

- Continuous Improvement and Growth:

Abbott Northwestern Hospital Identification of Improvement Areas

- ECMO Patient Volumes:
 - 2012 – 11
 - 2018 – 111



- Complications:
 - Limb amputation rates from 2012 through June of 2016 – 5.43%
 - Limb amputation rates from July of 2016 through present – 0.44%

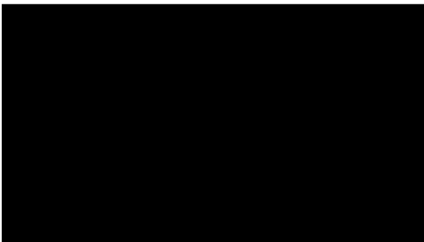
At Abbott Northwestern, we pride ourselves on having thrown out the old adage of “this is how we’ve always done it”, and taken a new aged approach to an ever-evolving life saving modality

Steps to achieve a successful ECMO program

- Institutional commitment
 - ELSO membership
 - Center of Excellence
- Motivated experts
 - ECMO Program Medical Director and Co-Medical Directors
- Cohesive interdisciplinary team of health care providers, with dedicated time
 - Advanced Heart Failure Cardiologist, Intensivists, CT Surgeons, Vascular Surgeons, Pharmacists, Nephrologists, Perfusionists, PT/OT, nursing staff and many more
- Organized educational content
 - Quarterly ECMO education for all team members
 - Didactic, water-drills and simulation based
- Goal directed patient care through a standardized provider approach
 - Whole team participation in the development of policies and procedures



Does an established ECMO program need an ECMO coordinator?



Who should be the ECMO Coordinator?

- Nurse, Perfusionist or Respiratory Therapist
- Possess high degree of organizational skills
- Highly effective communication skills
- Complete understanding of cardiac, congenital, pulmonary, vascular, transplantation (heart & lung) anatomy, physiology and associated procedures
- Demonstration of commitment to quality and excellence
- Understanding of ELSO guidelines and recommendations
- Autonomous and driven

What do ECMO coordinators do?

- Collaboration
- Leadership
- Quality and Standardization Initiatives
- Education
- ELSO
- Clinical Care



Collaboration

- Facilitation, coordination and collaboration for:
 - Health care team members
 - Affiliated and non-affiliated hospitals
 - External customers and vendors
 - Patients and families
- Prompt responses to physicians and staff
- Seek consultation from ECMO Medical Director(s) as necessary to facilitate ECMO program management and growth



Leadership

- Active participation in growth of the program and implementation of new initiatives
- Attend and participate in all committees and meetings surrounding ECMO and internal development of the program
- Assist with coordination and maintenance of all ECMO team meetings, trainings and wet labs
- Encourage ongoing professionalism amongst team members and encourage others to take leadership type of responsibilities on projects

Quality and Standardization Initiatives

- Multidisciplinary approach for process improvement and quality assurance
 - Case conference, M&M
 - Benchmarking
- Formal policies necessary for:
 - ECMO patient and circuit management
 - Maintenance of equipment
 - Initiation and Termination of ECMO therapy
 - ECMO patient follow-up
 - Intra-hospital transport
- Identify and facilitate hospital initiatives and quality improvement projects within the organization as related to the ECMO program
- Research and Innovation

Education

- Education and training are the key to the success and sustainability of an ECMO program
- It is the responsibility of the Medical Director(s) and ECMO Coordinator for the establishment of education and training, as well as the continued competency standards
 - Physicians, NP/PA's, Perfusionists, ECMO Specialist Nurses, and Bedside ECMO nurses
- As ECMO continues to evolve as the standard of care in many institutions, it is presumed, that ELSO site visits will become more frequent and involved.
 - The Joint Commission defines competency as: "knowledge, skills, ability and behaviors that a person possesses in order to perform tasks correctly and skillfully" (TJC Standard HR 01.02.01)

ELSO Guidelines for Training and Continuing Education of ECMO Specialists, ELSO.org

ELSO

- Participate in obtaining and maintaining Center of Excellence Award
- Uphold all ELSO recommendations surrounding patient care standards, education, and ECMO related topics
- Identify, abstract, maintain and submit all pertinent information to the ELSO database in a timely fashion



Clinical Care

- Extensive knowledge of ECMO for all phases of patient care
- Perform at a high degree of skill in providing ECMO cares to the patient
- Develop and disseminate patient and family education
- High acuity skill set in priming ECMO circuits, rapid initiation of ECMO and removal of ECMO
- Work required on-call shifts and scheduled ECMO shifts

So, do we need an ECMO program coordinator?

YES!

The ECMO program coordinator considers factors related to safety, effectiveness, knowledge and skill of team members, as well as the cost of planning and delivering care. The coordinator must demonstrate awareness and understanding of the health care delivery required for ECMO patients in their specific hospital system, as a multidisciplinary and multifaceted approach with a variety of entry and access points along the care continuum.

REFERENCES

- ELSO Guidelines for Training and Continuing Education of ECMO Specialists, ELSO.org
- The Joint Commission, Standards, jointcommission.org/standards_information/standards.aspx



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