



TELE-CRITICAL CARE PROGRAM

Dr. Dave Williams, Critical Care Physician
Allina Health Tele-Critical Care Medical Director

Stacy Jepsen, MSN, RN, APRN-CNS, CCRN
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Ridgeview Medical Center, Waconia

April 17, 2024



1

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this lecture, participants should be able to:

1. Describe the Allina Health Tele-Critical Care Program model and the patient care services offered.
2. Explain how the Tele-Critical Care Program expands patient care capabilities beyond the organization’s boundaries and broaden the accessibility of critical care services to external patients and entities.

2



Tele-Critical Care (TCC) Background

2018 Tele-Critical Care Concept Development

- Discussed ways to support critical care amongst the system
- To assist patient care for metro transfer
- Phone service grew into limited video service

2019 External Interest

- Initial discussions evaluated financial implications, potential care models and other factors to develop a service for non-Allina sites
- Work was put on hold as focus shifted to within Allina to COVID 19 pandemic

2020-2021 Pandemic

- Critical Care Telemedicine Program was launched to provide virtual and phone support to care teams across Allina Health
- Provided triage and transfer decisions support, ensuring the most appropriate patients were matched to available resources in the health system and across the state
- Safely increasing retention of critically ill patients at regional sites and resulting in increased capacity at metro facilities to care for higher acuity patients
- Designed to optimize bed and resource use across the Allina Health (STATE C5) system.

3



Tele-Critical Care Aim

Allina Health Tele-Critical Care Aim:

- **“WHOLE HOUSE COVERAGE”**
 - Provide 24/7/365 support for management of critically ill patients (ED, Med/Surg, ICU).
 - **Doc to Doc**
- Increase collaboration on care of critically ill patients across health systems and providers
 - Neuro, Cardiology
- Care delivered is collaborative not in isolation

4

2022 Tele-Critical Care

Following the patient influxes, regional hospitals requested continuation of the TCC service within the Allina system

ALLINA HEALTH SYSTEM MAP

Our network of care locations includes:

- 12 hospital campuses
- 14 urgent care centers
- 65+ primary care clinics
- 100+ specialty care sites

Map reflects locations as of 9/2022

5

Tele-Critical Care Goals


Support Triage and Transfer Decisions

Optimize patient pre-transfer, transfer
Right patient, right care, right place

Growth System Programs

TNK patients staying at regional sites
Code Blue involvement
PE ½ dose TPA
Expand critical care reach outside system

6



Tele-Critical Care Services Provided

Responsive Care:

- Full consultation
- Curbside
- Triage
- Logistical support
- End of life discussions

Scheduled Care:

- PRN Rounding/MDRs
- Family conferences
- Other services as requested

Continuous Care:

- 24/7 staff collaboration
- Chart review
- Support if transfer delay

Responsive Care used for:

- New patients
- Questions on care plan
- Transfer decisions
- Second opinions

Scheduled Care used for:

- Complex patients that need daily collaboration
- Family conferences
- Care team meetings

Continuous Care used for:

- Boarding patients in non-critical care areas
- Provider shortage
- Transfer delay

Here for you to collaborate on care how & when you need it!

7

Allina Technology & Support

Telehealth Equipment and Software

- Allina telehealth carts will be used for the tele-critical care service. The carts will include:
 - An Allina CPU, keyboard and mouse
 - Pan/tilt/zoom camera with far-end camera control plus a remote to control the camera locally, if needed
 - VidyoConnect software
 - Can interchange use between Allina tele-health programs (i.e. tele-neurology/stroke, tele-critical care)

Support

- 24 x 7 x 365 on-call remote support
- Support is requested via a call to the Allina Service Desk, 612-262-1900



8

Our Intensivist Group

- Diverse Training Backgrounds
 - 6 EM - CCM
 - 3 Anesthesia - CCM
 - 2 Pulmonary / Critical Care
 - 12 CCM
- 15 Dual-boarded in Neurocritical Care

*This image includes 5 APP's that are a part of our team, but currently not a part of the TCC service.



9

Our Experience



3 Intensive Care Units

- 30 bed Med-Surg ICU
- 12 bed Neuro ICU
- 32 bed Cardiovascular ICU

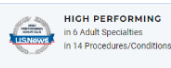
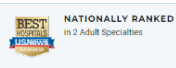
Neurocritical Care
Cardiovascular Critical Care
Obstetrical Critical Care
Pulmonary Embolus Response Team
VV and VA ECMO

- High Volume, High Acuity Practice
- 4200-5200 annual ICU patients
- ~19,000 patient ICU days per year



Watson Health
15 Top Health Systems* 2021

2022
WORLD'S BEST HOSPITALS
Newsweek
statista



10

Cases Allowed the Confidence to Grow the Program

Case 1 -

47 year old male with limited medical history presented to regional hospital with 6 days progressive SOB and new onset fever and headache.

CT chest showing bilateral dense ground glass opacities; patient admitted to medical floor. Tele-Intensivist consults on day 3 of hospitalization for rapid escalation in oxygen requirements. Patient placed on BiPAP with 100% FIO2

Tele-intensivist video into site given peri-intubation hypoxia. Patient intubated by CRNA and placed on ventilator

Regional pharmacy to prepare mixing IV sedation medications, paralytic and vasopressor medication given the expected post intubation hypoxia and hypotension. Tension PNX noted

Pt remain at OSH for ongoing daily support rounds. Extubated day 10

11

Cases Allowed the Confidence to Grow the Program

Case 2 -

52 yr old male presents to regional ED with SOB, lower extremity edema and dizziness

Lactate elevated to 4.8 and patient remained hypotensive thus required norepinephrine infusion

Consulted to assist with management in regional ED. Trop mild elevated 1.2, with EKG not suggestive of acute ischemic changes. Bedside cardiac US with ED physician and we both agreed that images showed severe mitral regurgitation leading to pulmonary edema and cardiogenic shock; started dobutamine

Pt stayed at OSH for >18hrs and optimized for definitive care upon arrival ANW

12

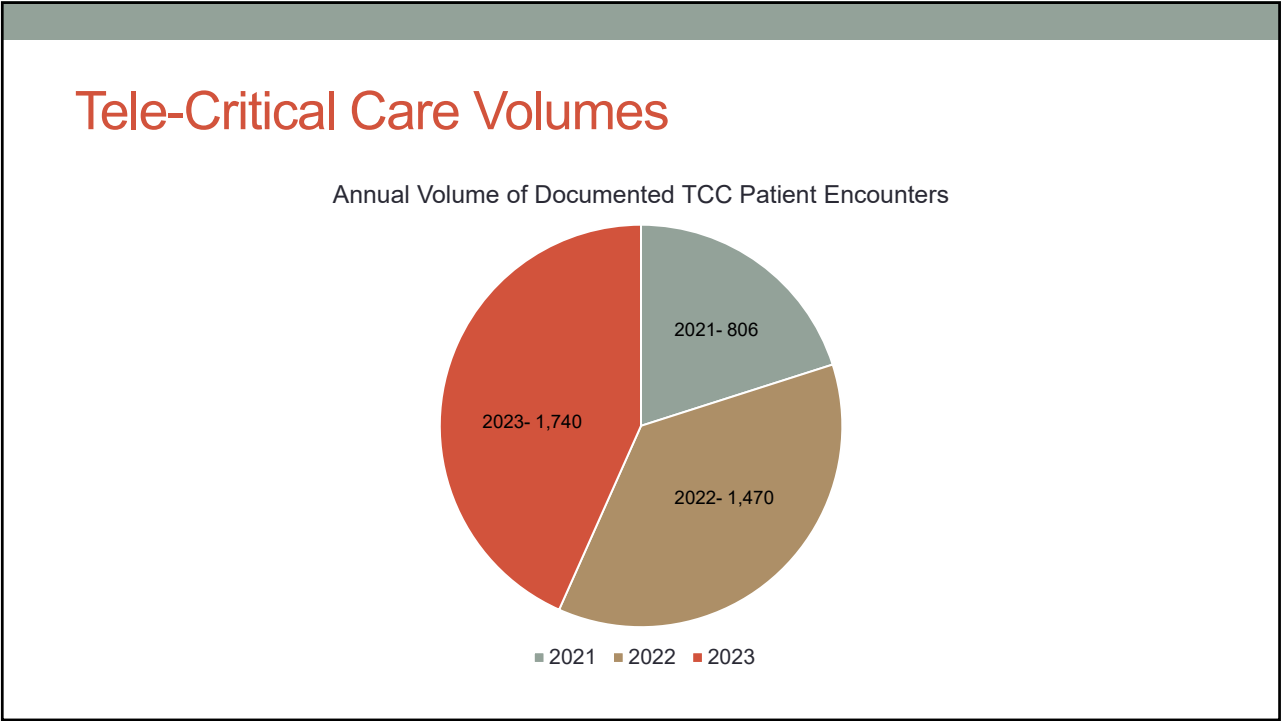
Cases Allowed the Confidence to Grow the Program

Case 3 & 4 – My two favs

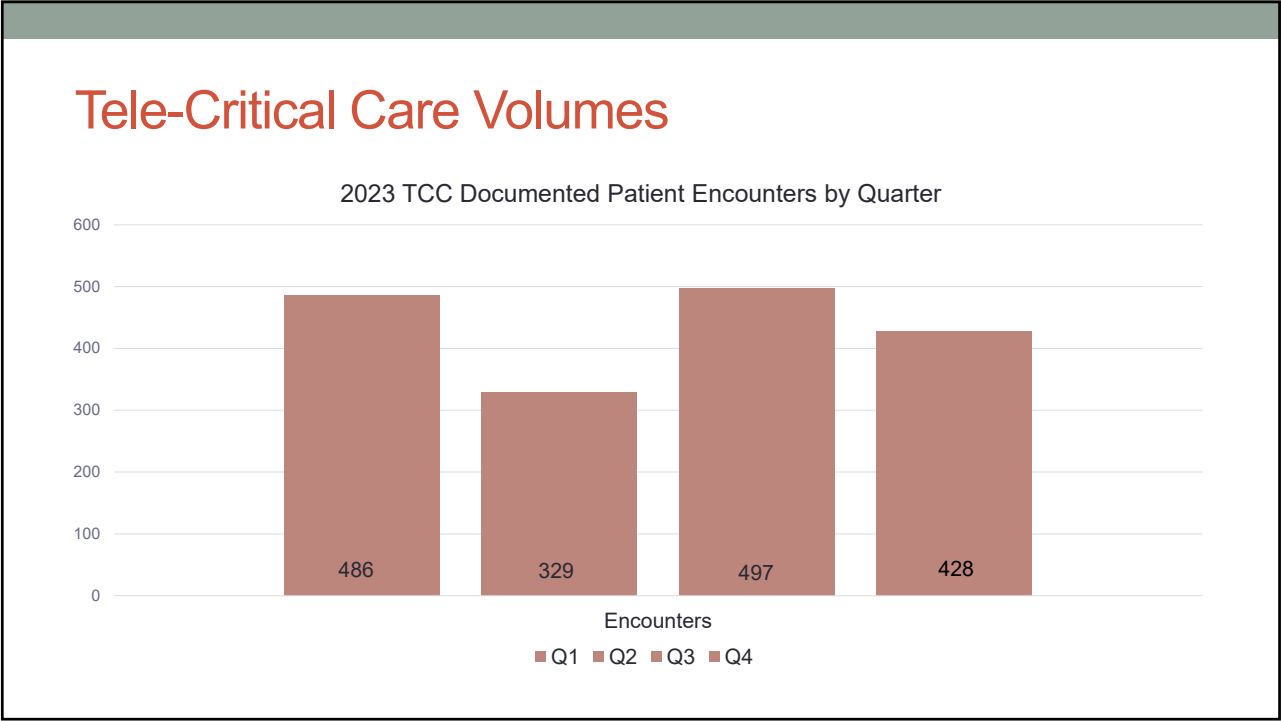
Called NP at Melrose hospital in central MN. They had 19yr old male with peritonsillar abscess. CT scan showed airway only 5mm wide at this point and they wanted to rapid transfer to ICU for definitive airway management.

33yr old male called by NP in Cloquet MN for post intubation severe hypoxia refractory to all ventilator maneuvers. Patient emergently airlifted to ANW and placed on VV ECMO. Patient was extubated the next day and walking the hallways while on VV ECMO (lung bypass).

13




14



15

Ridgeview Health System

- 4 hospital campuses
 - Waconia
 - Chaska- Two Twelve Medical Center
 - Le Sueur
 - Arlington
- 14 clinics
- 750+ physicians/APP
- 2,400+ employees
- Service area touches 7 counties, over 1,100 square miles and over 300,000 people



Mission: Ridgeview exists to enhance the lifelong health of the people it serves with a culture that nurtures the whole person- mind, body and spirit.

Vision: Ridgeview will be a regional, integrated health system recognized for its quality and exceptional, seamless experience.

Healthgrades 2024 Outstanding Patient Experience Award™ Recipient- top 5% in nation

16

Ridgeview Health System- Acute Care

Waconia Campus

- 22,000 ED visits
- 1,500 births (12% increase)
- 109 inpatient beds
 - 10 ICU
 - 10 bed level III NICU; 30 weeks gestation
- 6 ORs
- Cath Lab
- Interventional Radiology
- 24/7 Hospitalist service
- Specialty services- cardiology, pulmonary, nephrology, ID, tele-stroke/neurology, GI, palliative, general surgery, orthopedics

Two Twelve Medical Center

- 23,000 ED visits
- Orthopedic Institute
 - 6 ORs
 - 20 inpatient beds

Le Sueur Campus


- 1,600 ED visits
- Inpatient & swing beds

Arlington Campus

- 2,400 ED visits
- Inpatient & swing beds


17

Our Acuity Journey




Drivers For Change

Community demands
Organizational strategic goal to increase acuity and keep patients closer to home



Where We Were

High transfer rate of CC patients
2019 met with ANW to explore CC support
Pandemic put work on hold
Pandemic tested the system & demonstrated capabilities



Where We Need To Go

Capitalize on the momentum from the pandemic
Add critical care support through tele-health

18

Tele-Critical Care Services



2021 expanded Allina Health and Ridgeview partnerships by adding Allina Tele-Critical Care Services



Goal to improve patient outcomes through:

collaboration on critical care patients and timely response,
reduction of critical care transfers,
support for consistent, evidence-based care and treatment approaches, and
enhancement of the critical care skillset for Ridgeview care teams

19

Tele-Critical Care Services at Ridgeview

Service/When:

- Intensivist provide 24/7/365 consultative supportive services to hospitalist, ED providers, and care teams

Who:

- Allina Intensivists from Abbott Northwestern Hospital

Scope:

- Waconia hospital- ED, CICU, inpatient areas
- EDs- Chaska, Arlington, Le Sueur
- CAHs- EDs and inpatients

20

Program Development

EHR build & updates

Data tracking & goal setting

Revenue cycle & billing

Credentialing / Privileging

Developed guidelines & workflows

- Each hospital, ED and inpatient (ICU)
- How/when to use TCC service
- Providers & nursing responsibilities
- EHR order entry responsibilities
- Daily ICU rounds with interdisciplinary team
- Transfer to Allina hospital- use of Allina Access Center

Education & communication plans

Plan mock simulations

21

Tele-Critical Care Service Guidelines

Goal: provide 24/7/365 consultative supportive services

- assist hospitalists, ED provider and care teams in consistent best practices in the management of critically ill patients and to provide consultation for triage and transfer decisions

This is not an eICU or teleICU service (which would include comprehensive or continuous ICU patient care and monitoring)

INCLUDES

- Curbside consultation
- Acute patient change/decompensation
- Triage/transfer decision support & delayed transfer support
- ICU rounds and family conferences
- Provider initiated, unless critical RT or RN can contact

EXCLUDES

- Consultation services with established pathways/processes:
 - Stroke- Tele-Neurology/Stroke
 - Cardiology
 - Trauma Team Activation

**UNLESS establish pathway is unavailable

22

[illegible]

Algorithms

Tele-Critical Care (TCC) Service
Waconia Inpatient Workflow
TCC service (612) 775-9999

```

graph TD
    Start[Critically ill adult patient requires TCC support:  
• Curbside consultation  
• Acute patient change/decompensation  
• Patient transfer is delayed  
• Triage transfer decision support needed] --> Decision{Patient requires care for:  
• Tele Stroke/Neurology  
• Cardiac (Level 1, STEMI)}
    
    Decision -- Yes --> Established[Use established processes:  
• Inpatient Tele Stroke Code  
• STEMI/Level 1]
    Established --> Normal[Normal process not available]
    Normal --> RidgeviewProvider1[Ridgeview Provider:  
• *Call TCC service (612) 775-9999 direct to intensivist for provider to provider conversation  
• Discuss patient with intensivist  
• Is video call needed?  
  
*Place TCC consult order for formal (video) TCC consults (not needed for curbside consultation)]
    
    Decision -- No --> RidgeviewProvider1
    
    RidgeviewProvider1 --> CICUStaff[CICU Staff brings tele cart to bedside, give TCC intensivist cart name, & click on Vidyo icon  
• Staff to call RT to join video call, as needed  
• Utilize Tele/CICU cart list for TCC needs outside CICU]
    CICUStaff --> RidgeviewProvider1
    
    RidgeviewProvider1 --> RidgeviewProvider2[Ridgeview Provider:  
• Enter orders into EPIC, as needed  
• Call TCC services at (612) 775-9999, as needed  
• Can use secure chat for follow-ups  
• Participate in daily rounds w/ TCC for ICU LOC patients]
    
    RidgeviewProvider1 --> Intensivist[Intensivist:  
• Offers recommendation for treatment and/or transfer decision support  
• Enters TCC note/smart phrase  
• For TCC consult patients:  
• Follow up done daily (see daily MDR process)]
    
    RidgeviewProvider1 --> NursingRT[Nursing/RT:  
• Follow up with hospitalist, unless otherwise noted during daily rounds w/ TCC  
• Follow current procedure for reporting critical lab or test results to hospitalist]
    
    RidgeviewProvider2 --> TeleCarts[Tele Carts Location/Name:  
• CICU—Waconia TCC Ridgeview (to stay in CICU except in emergency)  
• Tele/CICU—Waconia Inpatient Neuro Stroke Ridgeview  
• ED—Waconia ED Stroke Ridgeview  
  
The primary use of cart is identified by the cart name. The primary use, if needed, will trump any other use of the cart]
    TeleCarts --> Allina[For Allina Access Center transfer, see back.]
  
```

Tele-Critical Care (TCC) Service
Waconia Inpatient Workflow
TCC service (612) 775-9999

Critically ill adult patient requires TCC support:

- Curbside consultation
- Acute patient change/decompensation
- Patient transfer is delayed
- Triage transfer decision support needed

Decision: Patient requires care for:

- Tele Stroke/Neurology
- Cardiac (Level 1, STEMI)

Yes:

Use established processes:

- [Inpatient Tele Stroke Code](#)
- STEMI/Level 1

Normal process not available → **Ridgeview Provider:**

- *Call TCC service (612) 775-9999 direct to intensivist for provider to provider conversation
- Discuss patient with intensivist
- Is video call needed?

*Place TCC consult order for formal (video) TCC consults (not needed for curbside consultation)

Yes:

- CICU Staff brings tele cart to bedside, give TCC intensivist cart name, & click on Vidyo icon
- Staff to call RT to join video call, as needed
- Utilize Tele/CICU cart list for TCC needs outside CICU

Ridgeview Provider:

- Enter orders into EPIC, as needed
- Call TCC services at (612) 775-9999, as needed
- Can use secure chat for follow-ups
- Participate in daily rounds w/ TCC for ICU LOC patients

Intensivist:

- Offers recommendation for treatment and/or transfer decision support
- Enters TCC note/smart phrase
- For TCC consult patients:
 - Follow up done daily (see daily MDR process)

Nursing/RT:

- Follow up with hospitalist, unless otherwise noted during daily rounds w/ TCC
- Follow current procedure for reporting [critical lab or test results](#) to hospitalist

Tele Carts Location/Name:

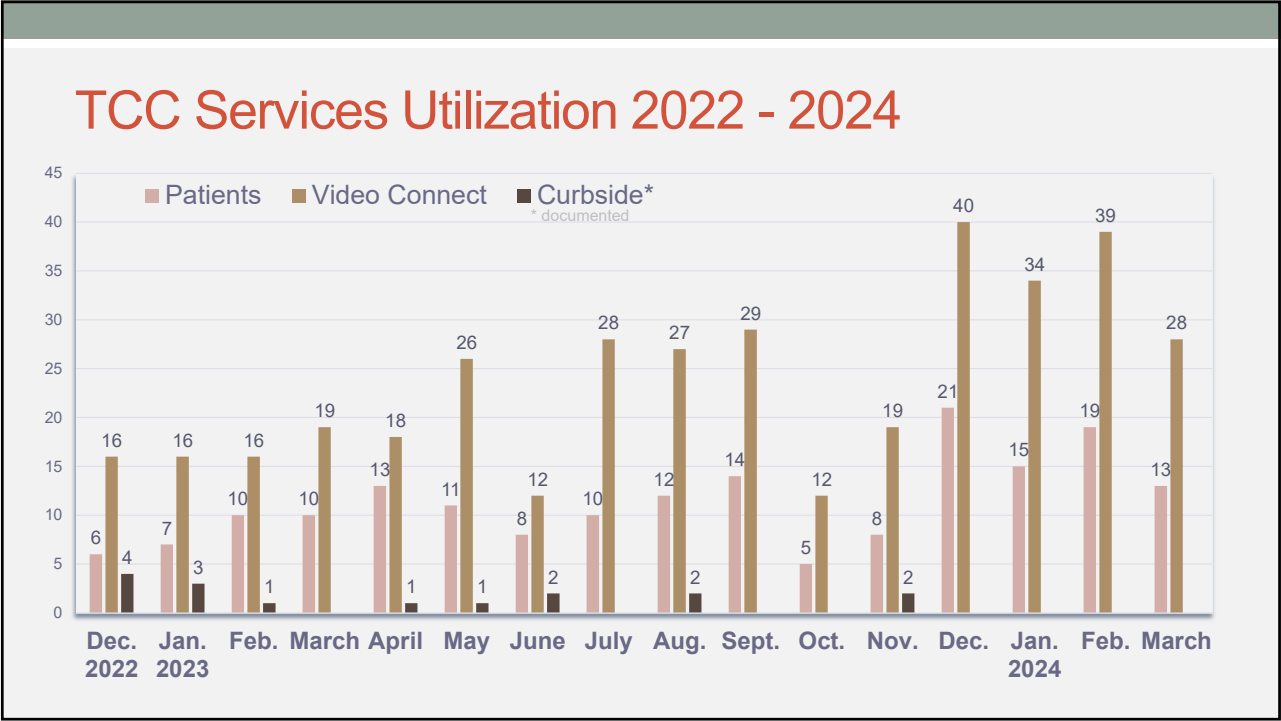
- CICU—Waconia TCC Ridgeview (to stay in CICU except in emergency)
- Tele/CICU—Waconia Inpatient Neuro Stroke Ridgeview
- ED—Waconia ED Stroke Ridgeview

The primary use of cart is identified by the cart name. The primary use, if needed, will trump any other use of the cart

For Allina Access Center transfer, see back.

#09853.1 (3/24)

12



25

TCC Services Program and Critical Care QI Work

Patient Care Expansion/Improvements:

- Acute renal failure
- Submassive PE- including s/p tPA administration
- Hypertriglyceridemia-induced acute pancreatitis
- ETOH withdrawal
- Severe DKA
- Sedation/analgesia/NMBA management in vented patients

Provider 3-way call transfer/admission decision support

RN call to Allina Access Center for TCC patient transfer

Measured SaO2% lab interpretation


Vented patient direct from OR to ICU

Critical transport paramedic huddle


EPIC & performance analytics adult ICU dashboard

26


Future Growth




Ischemic stroke s/p fibrinolytics




Right heart failure patient with PA catheters



Peripheral vascular- ischemic limb



Respiratory failure requiring mechanical ventilation



Complex/higher risk surgeries

27

Case Review

Pulmonary Embolism

- 74f presents to ED worsening dyspnea last few weeks & LE edema
- CT chest- large acute embolus distal end R PA w/ extension to all 3 lobar arteries; small embolus distal L PA w/ extension to lobar arteries; RV strain
- Echo showed RV strain & troponins elevated
- TCC consulted in ED- sPESI score 8.9% (high risk), recommended half-dose tPA
- tPA given in ED, heparin restarted
- ICU LOC 20 hours
- Transitioned off heparin to Xarelto HOD 4
- Discharged HOD 5

28

Case Review

Septic Shock
Bronchospasm
Post Extubation

- 55m presents to ED w/ abd. pain; CT shows perf. sigmoid colon diverticulitis
- To ICU postop, vented, septic shock
- HOD 1-4 vented, weaning off pressors, transitioned to Precedex, diuresis
- HOD 5 TCC consulted
 - Sedation reduction in am in prep for TCC video connect
 - Extubation with TCC present via video
 - Acute severe bronchospasm post extubation
 - Nebs, steroids, ativan, vapotherm
- Patient responded to therapies, stabilized, and tx out of ICU later in day

29

Case Review

COPD
Exacerbation;
Hypoxic and
Hypercapnic
Respiratory
Failure

- 58m presents to ED w/ SOB; +influenza A
 - Severe COPD oxygen dependent
- Treated with steroids, BiPAP, abx
- Developed severe respiratory fatigue requiring intubation (patient okay with short ventilator course)
- TCC consulted to support ongoing management
- HOD 1-4 periods of ventilator dyssynchrony & associated auto-PEEP
 - TCC assisted RT & nursing with ventilator adjustments and intermittent/continuous paralyzation
- HOD 5 family moved to comfort measures

30

Case Review

Asthma
Exacerbation;
Hypoxic and
Hypercapnic
Respiratory
Failure

- 38f presents to ED with SOB x 1week, upper respiratory track symptoms
 - Hx asthma, many asthma exacerbations (last 3 months prior)
- Boarded in ED 23hrs prior to admission
 - Steroids, nebs, O2, magnesium, nebs, terbutaline
- HOD 1 not improving despite continuous nebs, CO2 increasing, acidotic
- Tx to ICU, attempted BiPAP, intubated
- TCC consulted, present on video prior, during and after intubation
 - Very difficult to ventilate despite heavy sedation/paralytics, TCC assisted RT with ventilator adjustments
 - ABG not improving 1.5hrs post intubation
 - Only moderate ABG improvement 4hrs post intubation
- Tx to ANW (potential VV ECMO candidate)

31

Case Review

Histoplasmosis;
Hypoxic
Respiratory
Failure

- 63m presents to ED with 6 wks worsening SOB, weight loss, night sweats
 - Immunocompromised due to Crohns treatment (Remicade)
- DDx- histoplasmosis, TB, atypical mycobacteria, pneumocystis, pneumonitis
- ID, pulmonary, surgical consults
- HOD 3 bronched
- HOD 4 histoplasma urine Ag positive, amphotericin started
- HOD 6 worsening hypoxia, febrile, tachy- septic
- TCC consulted, recommended intubation & transfer to HLOC
 - TCC supported post-intubation hypotension, hypoxia, paralysis, ventilation
 - Tx out 2.5hours post intubation
 - ARDS treatment at ANW

32

Ridgeview Testimonials

Nursing

- “The addition of TCC services to Ridgeview has been instrumental in not only providing patients with the best possible care, but also, allowing them to receive it close to home, within their community hospital. This joint service has given Ridgeview the opportunity and the means to keep higher acuity, more critical care patients. As an ICU nurse at Ridgeview, I have utilized the TCC services often and have always had a great experience with the doctors, as well as their interaction and high-quality care for the patients.” **Patsy Doering, BSN, RN, PHN**

RT

- “The TCC service has been a great resource in providing specialized care as the acuity of our patients has increased. As an RT it is reassuring to be able to discuss ventilation/oxygenation strategies on complex patients and be confident that we are providing our patients with the best practice in respiratory care. It has been so encouraging to see patients’ admission to discharge with successful outcomes due to the collaboration with TCC. To witness TCC being brought in to a patients care team and bringing a new perspective to his/her case and the patient being discharged with positive outcome has been incredible.” **Lori Jorgenson, BS, RRT, CTTS**


Hospitalist


- “The TCC service has been an invaluable resource for me as a hospitalist. The ability to have an intensivist readily available to see a patient, place orders, follow up on results and assist in care coordination helps me as a provider feel confident in my ability to care for critical ill patients at Ridgeview.” **Dr. Ben Krehbiel**
- “With the TCC service, we are able to keep and care for more complex/ill patients and also properly provide the higher level of care when and if needed and in a timely manner.” **Dr. Marty Dvorak**

33

TO CONTACT ME

- david.williams@allina.com
- stacy.jepsen@ridgeviewmedical.org

RIDGEVIEW

Allina Health

34