Guideline for intubation and initial management of COVID-19 patients

Indication for mechanical ventilation

Early intubation in the deteriorating patient

- Hypoxia despite increasing O2 therapy and signs of respiratory decompensation (↑RR, fatigue, ↑PCO2)
- Use NRBM, but NO HFNP or NIV

Location

- Intubation should occur in a negative pressure room in CT ICU if clinical state allows transfer
- If clinical state requires intubation in ED, proceed in R2 as per COVID ED RSI plan
- If there no space availability in CTICU or ICU to facilitate intubation, intervention is to proceed in ED
- Patients should not be transferred on HFNP or NIV. Surgical masks to be placed over the patient's oxygen device during transport

UCGH Intubation team

Call 2222 ask for "Code Blue ED Resus – Anaesthetics ONLY"; ED consultant present/aware
Intubating doctor: ICU SpR/ED Senior (only if anaesthetic availability is overwhelmed)
Airway assistant: ED Reg/ED Nurse
Drug administrator/ team leader: ICU Specialist/Senior Registrar/Registrar or ED Specialist/Senior Registrar

Drugs Pack in Resus Fridge: Propofol 200 mg, Suxamethonium 200mg, Rocuronium 100 mg, Metaraminol 10 in 20mls, Adrenaline 1mg/1ml, Midazolam 10mg, Phenylephrine x2 (500mcg/10mls), Ephedrine (30mg/10mls), Adrenaline 1mg/10mls

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Airborne precautions are used because intubation is an aerosol-producing procedure
Theatre/disposable scrubs
Long-sleeved waterproof gown
Gloves: double glove technique
Avoid gap between gloves and gown – tuck gown into gloves
Immediately remove and dispose of outer gloves after airway manipulation
N95 mask + face shield or goggles
Pairs of two team members to check each other donning/doffing of PPE
Donning occurs outside the ambulance doors. Doffing occurs in the patient's room, except for the N95 masks which remain on until you exit through ambulance

Developed and agreed by Emergency Department Specialists (Mr O'Donnell, Mr Binchy, Dr McNichol, Dr Khamoudes and Dr Walsh) in liaison with ICU and Anaesthetics 18/06/2020