



Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



Dear Colleagues,

No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.

-Hal Borland

Airway Management Teams

Airway management teams were the topic of the department's Leaders Conference on Tuesday. Many hospital departments have already developed such teams or are in the process of doing so. The team of anesthesiologists at Trillium Health Partners, under the leadership of Dr. Bill Wong, was one of the first to deploy an airway management team. They have generously shared their "learned experiences" and protocols. Currently, their team includes an airway specialist (typically an anesthesiologist), an ICU respiratory therapist (or possibly anesthesia assistant), an ICU nurse and a safety officer (a nurse with IPAC training). The protocols, checklists and a description of the teams' activities are listed here.

- [Simplified Checklist](#)
- [Airway Team Record](#)
- [Airway Management Protocol](#)
- [Dr. Bill Wong's description of team deployment](#)

The Trillium Health Partners team is happy to answer questions related to their airway management teams. Please direct your questions to [Dr. Claude LaFlamme](#), who has agreed to help collate and manage the questions and answers. Specific protocols for each department's airway management teams can be shared by posting on our website ([link here](#)).

Thank you to the following colleagues at Trillium Health Partners for their tremendous contributions: Drs. Bill Wong (Chief, Anesthesiology), Gail Hirano (Credit Valley Hospital, Anesthesia Physician Lead and Site Chief), Ivan Cacic (Medical Administration), Tejinder Chhina (Physician Lead) and Andrea Thompson (COVID-19 Planning). Anesthesiology experts and authors include Drs. Brian Nishimura, Augustine Rhee, Muryum Farooq, Aaron Lau and Jurgita Markus.

Donning and Doffing Simulation

During the COVID-19 pandemic, job #1 is keeping our teammates and ourselves safe. The importance of safety coaches is a consistent message from anesthesiologists who are currently involved in COVID-19 management. Sites are strongly encouraged to develop plans for live simulation of PPE donning and doffing.

Acknowledging our Residents and Fellows

I received an email yesterday from a senior resident, thanking everyone and stating,

“We stand with you in this troubling time, ready to be at the front lines.”

Our residents stand strong, despite abrupt changes in their career plans, delayed exams and unexpected deployment to ICUs. They are willing to help, even in roles with airway management teams, if needed. They are also helping behind the front lines. Drs. Laura Bosco and Naheed Jivraj are assisting with content to the department’s website. Dr. Akash Goel and his colleague, David Dongkyung Kim, published a [letter in *The Lancet Infectious Disease*](#) about the calculation of case fatality rates for COVID-19.

Please take time to thank our residents, fellows and education leaders as they integrate trainees into our department’s COVID-19 management plans.

New Recommendations for Repurposing of Anesthetic Gas Machines and Safety Checklists

Details about scavenging, restart recommendations, explanations about not needing driving gas and other important information related to the repurposing of anesthetic gas machines is now available on the department website. We thank Mr. Jeff Wilding, President of Draeger Medical Canada, who has been keeping us posted about relevant developments. We also acknowledge collaboration and support regarding the repurposing of anesthetic gas machines received from Mr. Brian McWilliams at GE Healthcare.

A reminder of the following links:

- Our [department website](#) has the latest, infographics and guidelines
- Wellness during the pandemic: [helpful resources](#)

Please stay informed, stay calm and stay safe.

Best wishes,
Bev

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