

The COVID-19 Bundled Response for Access (COBRA) Team

WHAT IS COBRA?

COBRA is a multidisciplinary consult team to perform vascular and enteric access procedures throughout the MGH ICUs during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of COBRA is to support ICU teams during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing a safe, streamlined service performing bundled vascular and enteral access procedures. A well-trained team of experts can improve efficiency and safety of these procedures, thus improving patient outcomes while decreasing healthcare providers' exposure and preserving personal protective equipment.

PAGER:

The COBRA team can be accessed by all ICU teams with a formal consult through pager 26906 in the phone directory.

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COVERAGE:

The COBRA team will be available 7 days a week, including weekends, from 6am to 6pm.

TEAM STRUCTURE:

1. The COBRA team is staffed each day by an in-house attending physician and 2 senior residents.
2. The attending physician call pool consists of volunteer access experts from the departments of Anesthesia, Interventional Radiology, and Surgery.
3. The resident pool consists of volunteer senior (PGY3-7) residents from the departments of Surgery and Anesthesia.
4. The minimum number of individuals will be present for the procedure.
5. Any reusable equipment used will be cleaned and disinfected per hospital policy.

BUNDLED PROCEDURES PERFORMED:

Central venous access lines

Dialysis Catheters

Arterial lines

Orogastric and Nasogastric tubes

All procedures will be performed after consent obtained, when feasible, by the COBRA or ICU teams, and after concrete discussion with the consulting ICU team.

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPEMENT (PPE):

For all COVID-19, CoV-Risk and CoV-Exposed patients, the bundled procedures will be performed in one patient encounter with N95 masks, gowns, gloves and face shields, based on the extended use criterion. In addition, the team will respect sterility and opt for ultrasound guidance, as per MGH protocols. Healthstream and in-person COVID donning/doffing training is mandatory to all participating staff.

For any questions or concerns, please contact the MGH COBRA Team:

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