

Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) Transfers for Adults

1. Purpose and scope

- 1.1. To provide a single point of contact for referral of potential ECMO patients in Queensland.

2. Roles and responsibilities

- 2.1. Referring Intensivist.
 - 2.1.1. Identification of potential candidate for ECMO.
 - 2.1.2. Completes IHT form if from a QLD Health facility or if from a private hospital or interstate, to fill in the ECMO retrieval form and emails it to: RSQBrolga@health.qld.gov.au and ECMOCoordination@health.qld.gov.au.
- 2.2. ECMO Intensivist
 - 2.2.1. Provide clinical oversight and advice regarding the need for ECMO.
 - 2.2.2. Facilitate ECMO road transfers for suitable patients within South East Queensland (SEQ).
- 2.3. RSQ Clinical Nurse
 - 2.3.1. Facilitate teleconferences with appropriate stakeholders.
 - 2.3.2. Complete relevant documentation & upload ECMO form to patient chart in Brolga.
 - 2.3.3. Assist in facilitating ECMO road transfers.
- 2.4. RSQ Medical Coordinator
 - 2.4.1. Provide advice/support for aeromedical transfers of patients prior to requiring ECMO.

3. Background information

- 3.1. A two year proof of concept project has been funded to develop and determine the resourcing required for a sustainable ECMO retrieval service for Queensland.
- 3.2. The use of a single point of contact and standardised referral form for potential ECMO patients will provide data which will inform decisions about resourcing and funding for an ECMO retrieval service on a permanent basis.
- 3.3. RSQ will facilitate a conference call between the referring clinician and the on call ECMO intensivist (the on-call details are kept by RSQ). The teleconference will be used to assess the suitability of the patient for ECMO and to determine the subsequent course of action.
- 3.4. Transfers are only being performed by road within the SEQ.
- 3.5. ECMO retrieval requests outside of this area (south of Tweed, north of Nambour, and west of Toowoomba), should be referred to RSQ. If aeromedical ECMO retrieval is required, the ECMO team will take commercial flights if available to stabilise the patient prior to patient transfer using an RSQ aviation asset.



4. Procedure

Step	Description	Responsibility						
1.	Identify potential candidate for ECMO.	Referring Intensivist						
2.	If from QLD Health Facility to complete IHT form on QHEPS. If from a private QLD hospital or interstate, to complete and email ECMO retrieval form and email to RSQBrolga@health.qld.gov.au and ECMOCOordination@health.qld.gov.au	Referring Intensivist						
3.	Contact RSQ 1300 799 127 and advise RSQ Clinical Nurse of ECMO patient.	Referring Intensivist						
4.	Facilitate a conference call between the referring clinician and the on call ECMO intensivist.	RSQ Clinical Nurse						
5.	Record additional information from teleconference in Brolga and attach ECMO referral form to patient record in Brolga.	RSQ Clinical Nurse						
6.	If patient requires ECMO prior to transport <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a.</td> <td>South East Queensland</td> <td>→ Road transfer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b.</td> <td>Outside South East Queensland</td> <td>→ Aeromedical transfer</td> </tr> </table>	a.	South East Queensland	→ Road transfer	b.	Outside South East Queensland	→ Aeromedical transfer	
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7.	If patient requires ECMO Road Transfer <table border="1"> <tr> <td>a.</td> <td>Organise ECMO retrieval team</td> <td>ECMO Intensivist</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b.</td> <td>Organise QAS single stretcher bariatric ambulance</td> <td>RSQ Clinical Nurse</td> </tr> </table>	a.	Organise ECMO retrieval team	ECMO Intensivist	b.	Organise QAS single stretcher bariatric ambulance	RSQ Clinical Nurse	
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b.	Organise QAS single stretcher bariatric ambulance	RSQ Clinical Nurse						
8.	If patient requires ECMO Aeromedical Transfer, teleconference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referring Intensivist • ECMO Intensivist • RSQ Medical Coordinator 	RSQ Clinical Nurse						
9.	If patient does not require ECMO prior to transport, teleconference Referring Intensivist and ECMO Intensivist with RSQ Medical Coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow normal retrieval processes 	RSQ Clinical Nurse						

5. Definitions

5.1. Nil.

6. References, resources

- 6.1. Queensland ECMO Referral Form - https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/rts/rsq_forms
- 6.2. Private or Interstate access to ECMO Form: <https://clinicalexcellence.qld.gov.au/priority-areas/clinician-engagement/statewide-clinical-networks/intensive-care>
- 6.3. ECMO Adult flowchart (RI4003) - https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/rts/rsq_sops



7. Version history

Version No. & Date	Comments	Prepared by	Approved
1.4. 11.06.2021	Change in process	Anja Dehn, A/Clinical Director, Education	Brett Hoggard, Medical Director and Chair, OMC, ARDMB.
1.3. 09.10.2020	Nil content change	Sass Hayes, Clinical Director, RSQ.	Brett Hoggard, Medical Director and Chair, OMC, ARDMB.
1.2. 18.07.2019	Minor amendment, template update	Sass Hayes, Clinical Director, RSQ.	Brett Hoggard, Medical Director and Chair, OMC, ARDMB.
1.1. 21.03.2018	Minor amendment flowchart update	Sass Hayes, Clinical Director, Education and Training, ACEM Emergency Medicine Education and Training, RSQ.	Brett Hoggard, Medical Director and Chair, OMC, ARDMB.
1.0. 23.10.2017	Content review and template change (RP4002)	Clinton Gibbs, Clinical Director, Northern Operations, RSQ.	Brett Hoggard, Medical Director and Chair, Operational Management Committee, RSQ, Aeromedical Retrieval and Disaster Management Branch.

8. Next review

11.06.2022

