Field Visit Report

OHS Case ID: 04224PHDP082
Field Visit no: 03835PHL263
Visit Date: 2020-APR-29
Field Visit Type: FOLLOW-UP

Workplace Identification: MICHAEL GARRON HOSPITAL (FORMERLY TEGH)
825 COXWELL AVENUE, EAST YORK, ON, CANADA M4C 3E7

Telephone: (416) 461-8272
JHSC Status: Active
Work Force #: 2500
Completed %:

Persons Contacted: WORKPLACE PARTIES.
Visit Purpose: COVID-19 COMPLAINT.
Visit Location: BY TELEPHONE.
Visit Summary: ORDER ISSUED.

Detailed Narrative:

The purpose of this visit was to continue to follow up on the complaint related to respiratory protection in the Intensive Care Unit.

This inspector received information from the employer on:
April 15
Virtual Open Forum, April 14, Closed Captions.pdf
PPE N95 Checklist 04-03-20 Final.pdf
Covid-19 update: 5 questions with Dr. Janine McCready, PPE and Safety Tips Fr: Sarah Downey and Dr. Jeff Powsis, April 14, 4:35 p.m.
Safety Tips for Healthcare Workers, TEHN 2020, 1 page
Protected Planned Intubation, March 24, 2020, 1 page

April 23
Information in body of e-mail.
PHO Covid-19, Aerosol Generation from Coughs and Sneezes, April 10 2020, 7 pages
Ontario Health, Toronto Region COVID-19 Hospital Operations Table, Recommended Guidelines for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Conservation, Version Date: March 30, 2020, 14 pages.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Recommendations on the use and conservation of PPE from Ontario Health, Release date: March 30, 2020, 16 pages.

This Inspector conducted field visits on:
April 11, 2020
April 15, 2020

Recipient
Name: Matt Brown
Title: H&S Supervisor
Signature: [Signature]

Inspector Data
VALENTINA PARKER
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR
PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER
5001 Yonge St, Rm 1600 North York ON M7A 0A3
MOLCOMPLIANCEHSTORN@ONTARIO.CA
Tel: (416) 459-1882
Fax: (416) 777-5014

Worker Representative
Name: Judy Flasmar
Title: Co-CHAIR WORKER
Signature: [Signature]
This inspector spoke to the employer contacts related to this matter on:
April 17 – Spoke with:
Matt Brown - Health and Safety Supervisor
Mary Richardson, Manager of OHS Marilyn
Marilyn Lee, Manager of ICU
No worker representative was available at the time of the phone call (2:30 pm). There was a brief discussion.
The employer representatives maintained their stance that N95 respirators were not required to be worn by
workers assisting with proning and repositioning of prone patients who are on ventilators in the ICU. It was
agreed that this inspector would call back on Monday, April 20 to conduct a field visit with worker
representatives present.

April 20 – Spoke with Matt Brown.
This inspector decided to speak to Mr. Brown and request further documentation before conducting a return
field visit by phone. Mr. Brown agreed to provide this inspector with additional information to explain the
employer’s decision to not provide N95 respirators to workers assisting with proning and repositioning of
patients on ventilators by the end of the week.

It was reported to this inspector that there had been ventilator circuit disconnects during a procedure called
proning. Proning refers to repositioning a patient who is on a ventilator from their back onto their stomach.
Registered nurses and respiratory therapists are present for this process and it takes at least 3 workers. As well,
once the patient is proned, or placed on their stomach on a ventilator, their head must be repositioned every 2
hours. A registered nurse and respiratory therapist are present for this. The ventilator circuit disconnects with
the endotracheal tube separating from the ventilator tubing near the patient’s face. It was reported that
disconnects had occurred at least 3 times in the recent past.

Inspector Findings:
As per COVID-19 Directive #5 for hospitals and long-term care homes, issued April 10, 2020, states:

-A point-of-care risk assessment (PCRA) must be performed by every health care worker before every patient
or resident interaction in a public hospital or long-term care home.

-If a health care worker determines, based on the PCRA, and based on their professional and clinical
judgement, that health and safety measures may be required in the delivery of care to the patient or resident,
then the public hospital or long-term care home must provide that health care worker with access to the

Recipent

Inspector Data

Worker Representative

VALENTINA PARKER

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR

PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER

5001 Yonge St. Rm 1600 North York ON M7A 0A3

MOLCOMPLAINEHISTOR@ONTARIO.CA

Tel: (416) 459-1882

Fax: (416) 772-5034

Name ________________________________  ________________________________  ________________________________

Title ________________________________  ________________________________  ________________________________

Signature ________________________________  ________________________________  ________________________________

You are required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to post a copy of this report in a conspicuous place at the workplace and provide a copy to the health and safety representative or the joint health and safety committee if any. Failure to comply with an order, decision or requirement of an inspector is an offence under Section 66 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. You have the right to appeal any order or decision within 30 days of the date of the order issued and to request suspension of the order or decision by filing your appeal and request in writing on the appropriate forms with the Ontario Labour Relations Board, 505 University Ave., 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5G 3P1. You may also contact the Board by phone at 416-326-7500 or 1-877-339-3335 (toll free), mail or by website at http://www.ola.gov.on.ca/english/homepage.htm for more information.

The Government of Ontario wants to hear from you. You can provide feedback on this visit at 1-888-745-8888
appropiate health and safety control measures, including an N95 respirator. The public hospital or long-term care home will not unreasonably deny access to the appropriate PPE.

It was determined that health care workers are performing PCRs and using professional judgement to request N95 respirators prior to providing selected types of care to Covid positive patients in the Intensive Care Unit. The employer declined to provide access to N95 respirators to the healthcare workers who had requested them. Therefore the employer is not taking every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to protect workers from the hazard of exposure to Covid containing aerosols. Order issued.

A copy of this report shall be provided to the Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) and posted in the workplace.
The employer shall take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to protect registered nurses from Covid-19 where the worker's Point of Care Risk Assessment in relation to a suspected or Covid-19 positive patient has established a need for specific personal protective equipment. At the time of inspection, registered nurses were denied N95 respirators as required by their Point of Care Risk Assessment and their professional and clinical judgment when proning and repositioning proned Covid positive patients on ventilators in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The employer declined to provide these workers access to N95 respirators for proning and repositioning proned Covid positive patients on ventilators.

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