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Ms. 1 – 'Covid 19 : Embracing new normal in ED UiTM

# HOSPITAL UiTM Newsletter

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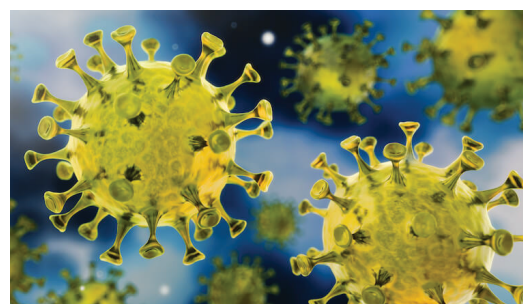
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# COVID-19 : Embracing New Normal In ED UiTM

By: Dr. Mohamad Iqbal Kunji Mohamad & Dr Sharifah Sofiah Binti Syed Azman

The COVID -19 pandemic is an unprecedented global crisis. With very limited knowledge of the new virus and its rapid transmission rate, affected countries including Malaysia urgently creates strategic preparedness and emergency response plan in facing this pandemic. Hospitals nationwide with the aid of guidelines from the World Health Organization (WHO) and Ministry of Health (MOH) have created their respective plans in order to swiftly manage situations in which they are to accept a person under investigation (PUI) or positive COVID-19 cases.

PPPUiTM has established a preparedness plan for our team to effectively respond to this crisis and this involved guidelines and protocols on triaging; screening of patients, patient management in emergency department, ambulatory care and ward settings; patient transport; and implementation of infection prevention and control measures. The department of Emergency Medicine UiTM has outlined protocols to prepare the team in managing cases of person under investigation (PUI) or positive COVID-19 patients efficiently with minimal risk of disease transmission.



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Patients upon arrival to ED will be screened at a designated triage tent which is set up outside the department. The triage officer will take a detailed history and identify the presence of symptoms. Case that is determined as PUI will be directly sent to Hospital Sungai Buloh for further management using a designated ambulance. In a situation where resuscitation of PUI patients is necessary, 'Code Purple' will be activated to alert our team, and patient will be transferred to the Iso-tent situated outside the department.

The Iso-tent is adequately equipped for the resuscitation of PUI/positive COVID-19 cases. Once a patient has been stabilized, the patient will be transferred to Hospital Sungai Buloh as per protocol.



**Iso-Tent**

In order to reduce the risk of transmission from low-risk patients (patients who do not fulfill the COVID-19 criteria for diversion to Hospital Sungai Buloh), the resuscitation zone is converted to a dedicated respiratory zone. All tachypneic patients will be triaged to this area. The doctors and paramedics attending a patient in this zone must be in full PPE at all times, and if the patient is considered as patients with symptoms of acute respiratory illness (SARI), they will be admitted to SARI ward at level 3 using dedicated pathway according to protocol.

The SARI ward is opened to accommodate patients admitted with symptoms of acute respiratory illness (SARI) and is managed by the SARI team, which consists of Emergency Physicians, Respiratory Physicians, Infection Disease Physicians, Microbiologist, Radiologist, Anesthetist, nurses and supporting staff.



**Aerosol Box**

As COVID-19 is transmitted by respiratory droplets and is transmissible via aerosol-generating procedures (AGP), the protocol and algorithm were also modified accordingly in order to protect the health care workers. Many new flow charts were created and some equipment was modified. With the help of a few generous donors, we were even able to create a semi-isolated area within Respiratory zone with a possible plan to make it negative pressure.

To facilitate our neighboring hospital, Hospital Sungai Buloh (HSB), which now has been made a COVID-19 hospital, we have begun to accept cases that are diverted from pre-hospital care HSB as they are unable to manage non- COVID-19 emergency cases at the moment. A designated bed and area to manage unstable polytrauma cases is established in the Non- Respiratory Zone with the help of the Trauma Management Unit of ED Hospital Sungai Buloh. This is unprecedented as ED PPUITM was not designed for the management of poly-trauma. However, until this article is written, we have managed major polytrauma cases with one polytrauma in pregnancy ended with perimortem cesarean section in ED.





With the global pandemic at its peak, implementation of strict infection prevention and control measures will be the new normal in our daily routines in the effort to break the chain of transmission. ED has established strict rules on WHO 5 moments of hand hygiene and social distancing while at work and in the pantry. Reinforcement on the importance of hand hygiene is done by setting up a hand hygiene corner at ED to educate the team. In addition, to ensure continuous learning and updates for our doctors and paramedics, a discussion has already been initiated in planning for online CME. All of these changes are abrupt and definitely challenging, but it is necessary to adopt and adapt.

This is probably a precursor for better care and a leap to industrial revolution 4.0 in our healthcare system.

**#UiTMDiHatiku**  
**#COVID19**

