

The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**ECMO**  
**Levitronix®**  
**CentriMag**  
**Protocols**

**Neonatal & Infant**



**ECMO**

**This protocol manual contains clinical recommendations to be used for initiation, care and management of patients requiring Extracorporeal Life Support in the Adult Cardiac & Paediatric Intensive Care Units at Glenfield Hospital, Leicester and are therefore exempt from responsibility for its use outside of this institution.**

**All procedures in this manual should be used in conjunction with hospital policies, procedures and guidelines.**

**Please ensure that a DATIX incident form is completed (<http://insite.xuhl-tr.nhs.uk/homepage/clinical/incident-reporting>) for any patient or circuit related incidents. This is to aid best practice and for audit & monitoring purposes.**

**Standard hand washing, appropriate gloving and sterile techniques should be used during any intervention on the ECLS circuit and patient, as per infection control policies and procedures.**

## Index

### Page

4	Admission Of Patients For ECMO (Duty ECMO Co-ordinator / ECMO Specialist Action)
8	Documentation Protocol
9	ECMO Cart (Emergency Drawer)
10	Emergency Communication Protocol
11	Fire & Explosion Risk
12	Dressing Cannulation Site
14	Infection Screening
15	Performing The Activated Clotting Time (ACT)
17	Heparin Management
19	Clamping On & Off ECMO
20	Sampling – Post Oxygenator Gas
22	Trans-membrane Pressure Monitoring
24	Administration Of Drugs & Blood Products
26	Procedure For Applying & Removal Of Tie-straps
28	Insertion / Change-out Of A Pigtail
30	Changing An ECMO Circuit Three-way Tap
31	Circuit Failure Due To Overwhelming Air - Air Bubble Removal
34	Insertion Of The Patient Bridge
37	Insertion Of The Patient Bridge (Blood Primed)
40	Weaning From VA Or VV ECMO
42	Trial Off Veno-Venous ECMO
44	Trial Off Veno-Arterial ECMO
48	Emergency Change-out Of Levitronix CentriMag <sup>®</sup> Motor
50	Decannulation Protocol
52	Equipment Clean-up Procedure

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Admission Of Patients For ECMO  
(Duty ECMO Co-ordinator / ECMO Specialist Action)

**Description:** To ensure the smooth running and efficient admission & cannulation of a patient onto ECMO

**Personnel:**

Duty ECMO Consultant	Radiographer On-call
ECMO Specialist	Haematologist On-call
Duty ECMO Co-ordinator	On-call MLSO
Theatre Team	Perfusionist
Transport Team	Nurse
Anaesthetist / Intensivist	ODP
Paediatric / Cardiothoracic Registrar	
Cardiology Consultant / Registrar	

**Equipment:**

ECMO Emergency Cart	Lead Aprons
ECMO Cannulation Trolley	ECMO Documentation
Emergency Drugs / Fluids	
Hemochron Jr. Signature ACT Machine	
Cannulation / Induction Drugs	
- Heparin (as prescribed)	
- Antibiotics (as prescribed)	
- Ketamine (as prescribed)	
- Atracurium (as prescribed)	

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### ECMO Specialist Action:

- 1) Collect information on patient from ECMO Co-ordinator prior to patient admission - age, weight, condition, referral hospital and estimated time of arrival (ETA). \* Duty ECMO Co-ordinator will inform the Nurse in Charge, Duty Intensivist & medical staff of referral and keep all staff members updated with regards to ETA.
- 2) Liaise with ECMO Co-ordinator for updated information.
- 3) Check and prepare essential equipment & ECMO cart.
- 4) Prepare ACT Heparin infusion:-  
5,000iu Heparin in 50mls 5% Dextrose for patients (<10kg)  
10,000iu Heparin in 50mls 5% Dextrose for patients (10kg - 30kg)  
20,000iu Heparin in 40mls 5% Dextrose/Normal Saline for patients (>30kg)

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

Prepare bolus dose Heparin for Anaesthetist / Intensivist to administer during cannulation:- 75iu Heparin/kg (to Theatre Team) or as directed by Duty ECMO Consultant

Prepare infusions as prescribed with Bedside Nurse as prescribed by medical team on PICU.

- 5) Prepare / complete all necessary documentation:-
  - Admission Form
  - Parameter Sheet
  - ECMO Chart
  - ELSO Form (Duty ECMO Co-ordinator)
  - ECMO Specialist Evaluation Form
  - Consumable Audit Form

**NB:** Be aware of documentation for any research studies
- 6) Prepare all necessary equipment for ACT monitoring.
- 7) Assist Perfusionist, as per Perfusionist's instructions.
- 8) When patient arrives, ensure unit of X-matched blood is available. Blood issued from referring centre – on arrival if blood products are not transfused, they must be returned to blood bank with associated documentation for checking, processing & reissuing. Responsibility of transport nurse / receiving PICU nurse.
- 9) Ensure Nurse takes patient's blood for analysis.
- 10) Order appropriate blood products and ensure X-matching is performed.
- 11) Assist Nursing / Theatre / Medical / Perfusion Staff where needed, document time of cannulation / type of cannulae used and take formal handover from Perfusion.

During a prolonged cannulation the Duty ECMO Co-ordinator, in consultation with the Duty ECMO Consultant, will advise the Intensivist / Anaesthetist regarding the possible need for a further cannulation Heparin dose.

- 12) Consider antibiotic cover at cannulation, for example Gentamicin: 2mg/kg. Flucloxacillin: neonates / paediatrics to a maximum of 25mg/kg and adolescents 1g. \* check allergies \*
- 13) Commence Heparin infusion once ACT is <250 seconds – monitor hourly until in prescribed range. Please refer to Heparin management policy / parameter sheet.

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

- 14) Commence Heparin on central venous access line or designated port on ECMO circuit (designated 2<sup>nd</sup> pigtail). Once ACTs are stable & within prescribed range, monitor 4 hourly or as directed on Parameter Sheet.
- 15) Ensure Duty ECMO Co-ordinator completes Parameter Sheet and it is signed by the Duty ECMO Consultant.
- 16) Ensure Duty ECMO Consultant documents procedure in the patient's notes.
- 17) Ensure full handover is received from the Perfusionist on-call to Duty ECMO Specialist – to be documented on Perfusionist Record.
- 18) Perform a complete circuit check and document accordingly.
- 19) Perform chest x-ray post cannulation.
- 20) Monitor blood gases as required and maintain within prescribed parameters by adjustments to flows / sweep.
- 21) Ensure all necessary documentation is completed.

**All VV ECMO cannulations are to be performed under x-ray screening in Theatre, unless severe instability of the patient mandates emergency cannulation in the ITU**

### **Personnel involved**

Duty ECMO Consultant, Intensivist, Duty ECMO Co-ordinator, Perfusionist, ECMO Specialist, On-call Radiographer (need 30 minutes notice), Nurse, Transport Team, Cardiology SpR & Theatre Team

### **Comments (for guidance only)**

- Maximum flow veno-venous ECMO patients < 10kg = 120ml/kg
- Maximum flow veno-arterial ECMO patients < 10kg = 100ml/kg
- Maximum flow veno-venous ECMO patients > 10kg = whatever is achievable due to limitations in cannula size & generation of negative pressure
- Maximum flow veno-arterial ECMO patients > 10kg = whatever is achievable due to limitations in cannula size & generation of negative pressure

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

### **Single Care: Applies To Respiratory Cases Only**

This is standard practice for all ECMO patients. The Nurse Specialist: patient ratio is only changed to 2:1 if clinically indicated. This must be reviewed by the Duty ECMO Co-ordinator & Nurse in Charge: AICU on a continuous basis.

### **Cardiac ECMO**

Standard practice 2:1 care. All cases reviewed on an individual patient basis according to patient dependency. 1:1 patient care may be appropriate in some cases. Reviewed & assessed by Duty ECMO Consultant / Duty ECMO Co-ordinator in conjunction with Nurse in Charge: AICU.

### **Accommodation**

On acceptance of a patient for consideration of ECMO, the Duty ECMO Co-ordinator will inform the Nurse in Charge, Duty ECMO Specialist & Bedside Nurse of the ETA. Part of the admission process requires the Bedside Nurse / Specialist to book accommodation for the relatives (one room). This must be arranged in advance of the patient & family arriving at UHL. Any difficulties in securing accommodation needs to be escalated to the Duty ECMO Co-ordinator for further action.

In the event of no availability of accommodation, the Duty ECMO Co-ordinator will communicate directly with the transport team to make them aware of the situation. The family / relatives will then be informed during the assent process.

# The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Documentation Protocol

**Description:** To ensure all ECMO Specialists are familiar with and know how to complete the ECMO Specialist Documentation

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## **Document:**

### ECMO Patient Admission Form

To be used for each patient on admission for ECMO.  
All sections to be completed by the Specialist on duty at the time of admission.  
The reverse of the form is to document existing IV lines or skin damage etc that the patient arrives with, any IV lines that remain in once cannulated and any other relevant information.

### ECMO Specialist Evaluation Form

One form to be completed by the Specialist for the shift worked.

### ECMO Chart

This is for hourly recording of patient and circuit observations.

### Parameters Form / Physicians Orders

To be completed and reviewed daily by the ECMO Consultant / Intensivist, Duty ECMO Co-ordinator & ECMO Specialist.

### Trial Off Form

This form documents each trial off ECMO and is completed by the Specialist during each trial off.

### ELSO Registry Form

Should be completed for each ECMO patient by the Duty ECMO Co-ordinator & updated accordingly.

### Perfusion ECMO Record

To be completed by attending Perfusionist and handover to take place with Duty ECMO Specialist.

### Inter-department Transfers

Perfusion record / checks need to be completed on handover.



## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** ECMO Cart (Emergency Drawer)

**Description:** Checklist for ECMO Specialist

**Personnel:** ECMO Specialist

**Equipment:** Cable Tie-Gun  
 Goggles  
 Sterile Gloves  
 Sterile Scissors  
 Tie-Straps  
 1 x 500ml bag of 0.9% Hepsaline For Patients < 10kg  
 2 x 500ml bags of 0.9% Hepsaline For Patients > 10kg  
 Emergency Change-Out Box to include Connectors appropriate to tubing size / circuit configuration  
 Blue Box \*  
 Grey Box \*  
 \* (Assessment required to determine individual circuit components)

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**ECMO Specialist Action:**

Action:	Rationale:
Ensure supplies are checked at the beginning of each shift	To ensure cart supply is ready in case of an emergency
Ensure above supplies are available and at hand at all times in case of circuit emergency	For immediate use in circuit emergency
Ensure absent items are replaced – absent items to be notified to Duty ECMO Co-ordinator and replaced immediately.	To minimise delay in an emergency
Full assessment required to determine individual components relating to circuit configuration	To ensure the emergency change out box is sealed and in date – only to be opened in an emergency  Expiry date must be checked

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Emergency Communication Protocol

**Description:** To ensure the ECMO Specialist is aware of the procedure for obtaining assistance if an ECMO emergency occurs

**Personnel:** ECMO Specialist  
Nurse  
On-call ECMO Team

- Duty ECMO Consultant
- Duty ECMO Co-ordinator
- Perfusionist
- PICU Medical Team (Resus)

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### **ECMO Specialist Action (in the event of an ECMO emergency):**

- 1) Call for assistance.  
At least three people are required:-
  - One Nurse to hand ventilate & monitor the patient
  - One person to telephone for support / instructions
  - One person to assist the ECMO SpecialistEach person should be aware of his / her responsibilities and directed by the ECMO Specialist.
- 2) The ECMO Specialist must attempt to deal with the cause of the emergency immediately. The circuit is the total responsibility of the Duty ECMO Specialist.
- 3) Telephone numbers and on-call rotas are held at Switchboard.  
In the event of circuit failure, call 2222 and ask for the ECMO Team to be called.  
State “ECMO emergency”, identify which unit or area.

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Fire & Explosion Risk

**Description:** To prevent fire or explosion in the event of surgical procedures where diathermy apparatus is used

**Personnel:** Duty ECMO Co-ordinator  
ECMO Specialist  
Nurse  
PICU Intensivist  
PICU Medical Team  
Theatre Team

### ECMO Specialist Action:

Action:	Rationale:
During cannulation, decannulation or surgical procedures there should be no source of free flowing oxygen, other than that minimally required to maintain patient oxygenation	Oxygen and alcohol (from the surgical skin preparation) form an explosive combination, which can be ignited by diathermy
Bag / mask should be labelled "No oxygen flow during surgery"	To ensure all staff involved are aware of risks
PICU medical team / dedicated nominated person should ensure safe placement of the oxygen administration equipment away from diathermy and related electrical apparatus	The PICU medical team / dedicated nominated person would be the main user of such equipment during surgical procedures

### Comments

In the event of a fire and / or explosion, please adhere to the unit / UHL policy & guidelines.

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Dressing Cannulation Site

**Description:** To apply dressing to cannula site following cannulation & redress PRN

**Personnel:** ECMO Specialist  
Nurse

**Equipment:** Dressing Pack  
Clear Occlusive Dressing - Tegaderm or as per Duty ECMO Consultant instructions / preference  
Normasol  
Cutimed Stick

**ECMO Specialist Action:**

Action:	Rationale:
Clean trolley as per unit protocol, wash hands and set up trolley as per UHL policy	Observe universal precautions
Remove existing dressing	
Observe cannula site for redness / swelling / breakdown of skin / sloughing – refer to Tissue Viability for further advice / opinion	To inform Duty ECMO Consultant / Duty ECMO Co-ordinator of skin condition
Ensure cannula sites are sutured securely  Document placement of cannula by using markings on the cannula & reviewing chest x-ray – each Specialist to review at the start of each shift	To prevent inadvertent decannulation  Any issues, escalate to Duty ECMO Co-ordinator / Duty ECMO Consultant for further action & intervention
Clean wound observing asepsis as per UHL IV dressing policy	As above

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

<p>If cannula site is oozing, apply pressure with small folded gauze &amp; call the Duty ECMO Consultant or Surgical Assistant for further assessment regarding potential surgical intervention</p> <p>Also notify Duty ECMO Co-ordinator</p>	<p>To try to reduce oozing</p> <p>To aid assistance / communication</p>
<p>If there is excessive bleeding from the cannula site, perform a clotting screen and inform the Duty ECMO Co-ordinator / Duty ECMO Consultant for further advice &amp; assistance</p>	<p>Surgical / medical intervention may be required</p>
<p>If cannula site is red or infected, take a swab – see Infection Screening Protocol (page 16)</p>	
<p>Redress; applying clear occlusive dressing</p> <p>Following assessment indication of use – Cutimed application prior to tegaderm dressing</p>	<p>To prevent excoriation of the skin due to repeated dressing of the cannulation site</p>
<p>Dispose of waste &amp; ensure patient comfort</p>	

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Infection Screening

**Description:** To ensure the screening is in line with Trust protocols

**Personnel:** ECMO Specialist & Nurse allocated to patient

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### **MRSA & MC&S**

Ensure full MRSA and MC&S screens are performed & blood cultures taken within the first 24 hours of a patient's arrival.

### **Monday**

Full MRSA screens to include wound sites and ECMO cannulae.  
Also swab the ECMO cannulae for MC&S  
Perform WCC & Differential.

Only swab wounds and other invasive sites if they look infected.

Compulsory - Send urine, sputum and swabs for MC&S.

Please refer to MRSA / MC&S Screening Form – available on PICU

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Performing The Activated Clotting Time (ACT)

**Description:** To perform the ACT test from the patient's arterial access  
NB: ACTs to be performed 4 hourly post cannulation when in prescribed range, then as per protocol / guideline parameter sheet

**Personnel:** ECMO Specialist

<b>Equipment:</b> Hemochron Jr. Signature Test Cuvette	Gloves
Hemochron J.r Elite ACT Machine	Steret
2ml Syringe	Bungs (Red)
1ml Syringe	

**ECMO Specialist Action:**

<b>Action:</b>	<b>Rationale:</b>
Gather equipment & wash hands	
Turn on ACT Machine by pressing & holding the start key	
Remove the ACT – LR test cuvette from packaging & insert the test cuvette into the test cuvette on the side of the Hemochron machine	
Once the Hemochron cuvette test is ready, it will signal with an audible tone (beep) and the display will indicate 'add sample & press start' – please note, the Hemochron cuvette test will remain in the ready mode for 5 minutes	
Clean arterial sample port using steret	
Attach a 2ml syringe to the 3-way tap	
Turn tap on & aspirate 2mls, then turn tap off	

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

Set aside this syringe and replace with a 1ml syringe	
Turn tap on & withdraw 0.2ml, then turn tap off	
Immediately dispense 1 drop of blood into the sample well of the pre-warmed ACT – LR test cuvette ~ fill the sample well from the bottom up with the blood	
Press the start key on the Hemochron machine	To start timing immediately blood starts to clot
Flush 3-way tap with Saline from transducer as per unit protocol & replace with sterile red bung	
Test completion will be indicated by a single bleep	
The ACT – LR result is automatically converted to a reference Celite ACT result and displayed as the Celite equivalent results in seconds ~ while on ECMO an ACT – LR value of 200 – 220 seconds is the recommended range or as prescribed by the Duty ECMO Consultant / Duty ECMO Co-ordinator * Always refer to the prescribed parameter sheet for guidance *	
Document the result on the ECMO Specialist Chart	
Dispose of equipment properly	Health & Safety
Any concerns, please escalate to Duty ECMO Co-ordinator on-call	



## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Heparin Management

**Description:** To ensure safe & smooth running management of continuous Heparin infusion (to patient's central venous access)

**Personnel:** Duty ECMO Consultant  
ECMO Co-ordinator  
ECMO Specialist

<b>Equipment:</b> Heparin (1,000iu/ml)	Dilution Fluid
Syringe Pump	50ml Luer Lock Syringe
Hemochron Jr. Elite ACT Machine	Infusion Line
Hemochron Jr. Signature Test Cuvettes	

**ECMO Specialist Action:**

<b>Action:</b>	<b>Rationale:</b>
<p>Heparin infusion must be connected &amp; administered to the patient's central venous access / ECMO Circuit (designated 2<sup>nd</sup> pigtail), as per ECMO protocol (only when the ACTs fall below 250 seconds) – refer to parameter sheet for prescribed range</p> <p>Please titrate &amp; follow the protocol for Heparin management until ACTs are within the prescribed range</p> <p><b>* Always refer to the prescribed written parameters *</b></p>	<p>To ensure continuous administration of Heparin infusion to the patient's central venous line</p>
<p>Ensure Heparin infusion is being delivered &amp; administered as prescribed according to ACTs – these must be performed as per ECMO protocol</p> <p>Clotting screen to be performed twice daily – refer to parameter for guidance</p>	<p>To ensure correct dose &amp; strength of Heparin is being administered, as prescribed</p> <p>To prevent coagulation of the circuit</p>

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

### Heparin Concentrations

25,000 units in 50mls 0.9% Normal Saline as prescribed

*Above concentration may need to be revised for patients with severe coagulopathies and therefore management is dependent upon the individual ACT / clotting results and written parameters – as directed by the Duty ECMO Consultant / Duty ECMO Co-ordinator*

<p>ACTs need to be monitored until within prescribed range</p> <p>Please sample ACTs from the patient's arterial line – please refer to Parameter Sheet for guidance / prescription</p> <p><i>NB: Never discontinue a Heparin infusion – this is the decision of the Duty ECMO Consultant and must be documented in the patient's notes. Duty ECMO Co-ordinator must be informed of this decision</i></p>	<p>To prevent clot formation in the circuit</p>
<p>Ensure Duty ECMO Specialist / Duty ECMO Co-ordinator / Duty ECMO Consultant are aware of written ACT parameters – documented &amp; prescribed on physician's orders / daily parameter sheet</p>	<p>Changes may be made, depending on the patient's status</p>
<p>Any concerns, contact the Duty ECMO Consultant / Duty ECMO Co-ordinator on-call</p>	<p>For escalation to Duty ECMO Consultant / Duty ECMO Co-ordinator for advice and instruction</p>

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Clamping On & Off ECMO

**Description:** Clamping patients on and off ECMO

**Personnel:** Duty ECMO Co-ordinator  
ECMO Specialist  
PICU Medical Team

**Equipment:** Clamps x 2  
Hand Ventilation Equipment  
Emergency Drugs (as required)

**ECMO Specialist Action (for elective period off ECMO):**

Action:	Rationale:
<p><b>Clamping off VV / VA ECMO: Clamp the return line, then clamp drainage line</b></p>	<p>To prevent cavitations in centrifugal head</p>
<p>When clamps are released, release the drainage line (pre-pump) then the return line (post-pump) - V/A and check integrity of the tubing where the clamps have been placed</p> <p><i>NB:</i> The pump should be turning before releasing the return line (post-pump)</p>	<p>To ensure patency</p>

### Comments

Ensure emergency drugs are available at all times and all IV lines are accessible & patent to ensure patient stability whilst off ECMO support.

Insertion of patient bridge into the circuit may be required – please refer to protocol for insertion of the patient bridge protocol.

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Sampling – Post Oxygenator Gas

**Description:** To determine the function of the oxygenator(s)

**Personnel:** ECMO Specialist

**Equipment:** 2 x Luer Lock 2ml Syringes  
 1 x Gas Syringe  
 2 x Sterets  
 1 x White Cap

**ECMO Specialist Action:**

<b>Action:</b>	<b>Rationale:</b>
Gather supplies	To prepare for task
Identify P2 (red pressure line, post oxygenator) as sample port for post oxygenator gas	To ensure consistency in practice between all ECMO Specialists
Remove white cap, wipe with steret * & attach Luer lock 2ml syringe to P2 3-way tap port  * Sampling / administration – allow to evaporate	To maintain asepsis ‘scrub the hub’ – refer to UHL Infection Control Policy / Guidelines
Turn 3-way tap on to 2ml Luer lock syringe & withdraw 2ml of blood (this sample must be kept to one side to be returned pre oxygenator post procedure using aseptic technique) – Best practice to return sampled blood to a pigtail between pump head & oxygenator  This sample must only be returned if no clots are observed	To prevent air entrainment / clots return to the patient

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

Turn 3-way tap off to the circuit, attach second 2ml Luer lock syringe & aspirate 1ml of blood	To ensure patient / Specialist safety
Inject the sample in to the gas syringe	
Clean the 3-way tap with a steret & replace with a white cap	To maintain asepsis
Ensure 3-way tap is back on to the circuit checking & ensuring P1 & P2 readings are active, process the sample & document results / actions	To ensure consistent monitoring
Flushing & calibrating P1 & P2 is recommended at this time – please refer to transmembrane flushing & calibrating protocol	

### Comments

- Sample as indicated.
- Please refer to the prescribed daily parameters for post oxygenator values.
- Any variation to the prescribed range must be escalated to the Duty ECMO Co-ordinator.
- Further discussion will then be held with the Duty Perfusionist & Duty ECMO Consultant for further advice & instruction.

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Trans-membrane Pressure Monitoring

**Description:** To replace Transducer Lines, flush Transducer Lines and recalibrate & set alarms

**Personnel:** ECMO Specialist

**Equipment:** 2 x 50ml, 20ml or 30ml Luer Lock Syringes for each Oxygenator  
 Flush Bag (Saline)  
 Transducer Set (Triple Transducer Set)  
 2 x Sterets

### ECMO Specialist Action:

Action:	Rationale:
<p><u>To Replace Transducer Sets</u> (every 7 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the transducer lines are primed</li> <li>• Ensure change-out of 3-way taps is performed as per protocol prior to changing new transducer set</li> <li>• Turn off the three-way tap at the oxygenator and attach primed transducer set to three-way tap</li> <li>• Scrub the hub with a steret; leaving to dry for 30 seconds prior to replacing white cap</li> <li>• Ensure pressure bag is inflated to 300mm Hg</li> <li>• Ensure roller clamp is closed unless directed otherwise</li> </ul>	<p>Routine change-out of transducer set is not required unless clinically indicated</p> <p>Refer to UHL Infection Control Policy / Guidelines routine 'scrub the hub'</p>
<p><u>To Flush Transducer Lines</u> (6 hourly)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attached 2ml luer lock syringe to three-way tap at oxygenator side of transducer line (aspirate 1ml sample to ensure patency of pigtail)</li> </ul>	<p>To maintain patency and remove back flow of blood</p>

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turn off to circuit, attach 50, 30 or 20ml luer lock syringe to 3-way tap</li> <li>• Flush using flushing device from transducer sets</li> <li>• Turn tap back on to circuit, discard syringe, wipe with steret &amp; attach new white cap</li> </ul>	
<p><u>To Recalibrate</u> (6 hourly)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove the cap, turn the transducer 'off' to the oxygenator and open the line to air</li> <li>• Access menu</li> <li>• Scroll down</li> <li>• Select 'Pressure Cal'</li> <li>• Press 'New Cal'</li> <li>• Press 'Cal P1' and 'Cal P2' until 'O' is seen</li> <li>• Once calibrated, turn the transducer to the 'on' position</li> <li>• Replace caps</li> </ul>	<p>To calibrate</p>

### Comments

P1 = pre-oxygenator pressure (Blue Transducer Line)

P2 = post-oxygenator pressure (Red Transducer Line)

If changes in the gradient are noted, please inform the Duty ECMO Co-ordinator. The pressure gradient serves as a trend only – any deviation from the trend must be escalated for advice.

#### Innovative guide

Neonates / infants – 50 (0800 / 2400 oxy)

Older paediatric / adolescents – 100 (7000 Lt)

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Administration Of Drugs & Blood Products

**Description:** The safe & appropriate administration of prescribed drugs & blood products and the use of UHL policy

**Personnel:** ECMO Specialist  
Nurse

<b>Equipment:</b> Drug Diluent Dispensing Pin Blood Product	Three-way Tap Connector Giving Sets / Syringe Bungs (White)
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### ECMO Specialist Action:

<b>Action:</b>	<b>Rationale:</b>
Check prescription chart / patient	Identity bracelet in place, as per UHL blood transfusion policy
Check product	For correct dose, correct dilution, expiry date, correct blood product & correct blood group
<u>Prepare drugs</u> As per UHL policy  <u>Prepare blood products</u> Using appropriate filter and giving set	
Use a suitable port on the patient's central or other IV access to administer drugs / blood products  <i>i.e. Blood / Volplex into available ports on the circuit (for example identify pigtails between the pump head &amp; oxygenator) only when no patient central or IV access is available – in adherence to the UHL drug administration policy</i>	To infuse as quickly as is required



## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

<p>All clotting factors directly to the patient or post oxygenator if administered directly into the circuit</p> <p>Administer bolus drugs into drug port only if IV access is compromised</p> <p>TPN must be administered on a designated line in adherence to the UHL TPN administration policy</p> <p>All other infusions must be administered to either an available pigtail or directly to patient's central access</p>	<p>To prevent destruction in oxygenator</p>
<p>Administer bolus or continuous infusions and ensure infusion pumps are checked hourly &amp; administering correctly</p> <p><i>NB: Ensure strict hand hygiene and non-touch technique</i></p>	<p>For patient safety</p>
<p>Observe patient for side effects &amp; reactions and stop infusions / inform Medical Staff as necessary</p>	<p>For patient safety</p>

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Procedure For Applying & Removal Of Tie-straps

**Description:** Assess Tie-strap security and remove & replace as required

**Personnel:** ECMO Specialist  
Perfusionist  
Duty ECMO Co-ordinator

**Equipment:** Tie-straps  
Tie-strap Gun

### ECMO Specialist Action:

Action:	Rationale:
All tie-straps are to be checked at the beginning of each shift and at hourly intervals thereafter – document on Specialist’s Hourly Checklist	To check the security of each tie-strap regularly
Check tie-straps by supporting tubing using both hands and examine each tie-strap by twisting gently with thumb & finger to see if secure	
If tie-strap is loose, prepare for replacement – if loose move to one side (if possible) on to tubing	
Gather supplies	To prevent undue anxiety
Place new tie-strap around the tubing (serrated edge to be placed onto tubing to grip)  Pull to secure; hand tight only – ensuring the tie-strap is placed onto the connector, NOT directly onto the tubing	To prevent occlusion of the tubing / line otherwise flow will be reduced / lost to the patient creating an emergency situation

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

<p>Place tie-strap in gun, support the connector &amp; tubing with both hands and secure a tie-strap with the gun</p> <p>Discard excess strapping &amp; observe newly applied tie-strap &amp; connector</p> <p><i>Do not use scissors in tie-strap removal - seek assistance from the ECMO Co-ordinator</i></p>	<p>For a tight &amp; secure fit</p>
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### Comments

One tie-strap must be applied to each connector (minimum standard).

Tie-strap gun to be set on a standard setting 6 - 8 (there are two other settings: intermediate & minimum - the gun is designed to be used with different thicknesses of ties which have different breaking strains, so the user selects a number in relation to the tie used & the amount of curvature required).

### HellermannTyton Tension Settings And Cut-off Force

The tension settings listed below are recommendations only and are only related to the Mark 7 tool.

Cable Tie	Tie width	Setting
T18 – T25	0.098" (2.5mm)	MIN 1-3
T30 – T40	0.140" (3.5mm)	INT 3-5
T50	0.190" (4.6mm)	STD 6-8

Approximate cut-off force of tool – lbs (Newton's)	
Setting	MK7
1	4 (18)
2	7 (29)
3	11 (49)
4	15 (68)
5	17 (78)
6	20 (88)
7	22 (98)
8	26 (117)

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Insertion / Change-out Of A Pigtail

**Description:** To replace an ECMO circuit Pigtail

**Personnel:** ECMO Specialist  
Nurse  
ECMO Fellow  
Duty ECMO Co-ordinator (if required)

**Equipment:** 3 x Clamps  
1 x Pigtail

2ml Luer Lock Syringe  
Gloves

### ECMO Specialist Action:

Action:	Rationale:
Gather supplies and inform Nurse & relatives	To have everything at hand for quickness
Wash hands and put on gloves	To observe universal precautions
Attach Luer lock syringe to the three-way tap on the replacement pigtail	To prevent air embolus
Clamp post oxygenator clamp 1	
Clamp tubing using clamps 2 & 3 on either side of the affected pigtail	To prevent blood loss when the old pigtail is removed
Disconnect the old pigtail and connect the new pigtail with the three-way tap & Luer lock syringe attached	
Remove the clamp (3) nearest to the patient , draw back to de-bubble, turn tap off to circuit and release clamp 2	The patient is the reservoir for aspiration

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

Check circuit for air, then remove clamp 1 post oxygenator

To ensure it is safe to return the patient to ECMO

To prevent entrainment of air

### Comments

- 1) Do not tighten three-way taps with a clamp: they need to be hand tight only.
- 2) Do not loosen affected Pigtails prior to removal with a line clamp.
- 3) Assessment must be made by the ECMO Specialist prior to a change-out – if inotropes / other dependant drugs are running to the circuit, the Specialist must ensure emergency drugs are available for immediate administration.
- 4) Routine / planned change-out - Pigtail must be primed before connecting to the circuit (unless in an emergency). Please refer to Pigtail change protocol.
- 5) 2 x sterile white caps must be in place on all 3-way tap ports on the circuit to prevent air entrainment into the circuit – please remember 3-way taps must be turned off to the circuit, unless transduced.

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Changing An ECMO Circuit Three-way Tap

**Description:** To replace an ECMO circuit tap at prescribed intervals and in the event of cracking / clotting

**Personnel:** ECMO Specialist

**Equipment:** 1 x Sterile Three-way Tap                      Clamp  
                          2 x Sterets    2ml Luer Lock Syringe  
                          Gloves    White Caps

### ECMO Specialist Action:

Action:	Rationale:
Gather supplies	
Wash hands and put gloves on	Observe universal precautions
Attach tap to Luer lock syringe (2ml)	To remove air from the tap
Place steret package around the pigtail, then clamp the packet over the pigtail	To protect the pigtail from damage by the clamp
Whilst holding the pigtail, remove the old tap	
Wipe lightly with steret, then attach new tap onto the pigtail & remove clamp – aspirate using 2ml Luer lock syringe then turn three-way tap off to the circuit; discard 2ml syringe & replace with a white cap on to both ports of the 3-way tap	Substances in plastic may be degraded by excessive exposure to alcohol  To prevent air entrainment

### Comments

- 1) Notify the Nurse prior to change, particularly if IV infusions will be affected
- 2) All taps must be turned off to the circuit when not in use
- 3) Taps should be changed every 72 hours
- 4) Sample / drug port changed every shift

# The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Circuit Failure Due To Overwhelming Air - Air Bubble Removal

**Description:** To remove air from the circuit

**Personnel:** Duty ECMO Consultant Nurse  
Duty ECMO Co-ordinator ECMO Specialist  
**ECMO Emergency Call-out Team - 2222** Perfusionist

**Equipment:** Luer Lock Syringe (appropriately-sized to aspirate air)  
Gloves  
Rapid Access IV Giving Set  
Emergency Priming Fluid (0.9% Hepsaline) – 500ml /1L bag  
Clamps x 4 (six available per patient)

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**ECMO Specialist Action:**

<b>Action:</b>	<b>Rationale:</b>
<p><b><u>If Gross Air Identified In The Circuit:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clamp circuit <b>A</b> (clamp 1 - return to patient) above patient bridge access, then clamp drainage line <b>V</b> (clamp 2 - above patient bridge access), then proceed to clamp below the bridge access on drainage side (clamp 3), then clamp 4 on the return access side (A) * the bridge port is identified by the capped single Luer connector on the return &amp; drainage lines *</li><li>• Clamp sequence: <b>1 (A) – 2 (V) – 3 (V) – 4 (A)</b></li><li>• Turn the pump on to standby</li><li>• Contact the ECMO team on 2222</li><li>• Hand bag the patient with 100% oxygen and initiate full resuscitation procedure as indicated</li><li>• Add emergency bridge</li></ul>	<p>Patients require isolation from the ECMO circuit due to the risk of air – a prolonged period of time off ECMO will cause the ECMO circuit to clot</p>         <p>To prevent retrograde flow / cavitation</p>

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

- Add bag of fluid to rapid access line & connect access via pigtails between the head & oxygenator – fluid bag available in emergency cart (0.9% saline)
- De-air the circuit with a Luer lock syringe; apply a Luer lock syringe to P1 3-way tap on top of the oxygenator & aspirate air
- Once the circuit is de-aired, turn the pump back on, re-circulate through the patient bridge – when no air is observed go back on to ECMO **V – A – B** & ensure the rapid access IV giving set is clamped off to the circuit
- Go back on to ECMO: release venous clamp first, release the arterial clamp second and release then clamp the bridge (**V - A - B**)
- Remove rapid access IV giving set
- Remove bridge once patient is safely back on to ECMO support

**Document total length of clamp off period in specialist evaluation - please remember if off ECMO for a prolonged period of time, removal of sweep gas must be considered / initiated (however, if removed, replace immediately prior to going back onto ECMO)**

To ensure rapid access fluid is not administered to the patient causing overload



## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

### Comments

- 1) Please be aware that emergency fluid may need to be administered to maintain pump flow using rapid access line as this does not have a ball-valve (unlike a blood giving set). The Specialist must ensure that air is not entrained; this will only happen if the bag is allowed to empty completely. Emergency fluid of Hepsaline must be administered to prevent formation of clots in the circuit to counteract any prolonged delay before initiation of ECMO.
- 2) Once the emergency procedure has been initiated, hand bag the patient with 100% oxygen.
- 3) Please ensure a DATIX incident form is completed for any circuit related incidents. This is to aid best practice and for audit & monitoring purposes.

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Insertion Of The Patient Bridge

**Description:** To insert the patient bridge to manage & monitor a trial off VA ECMO; maintaining the function of the ECMO circuit & the safety of the patient

To insert the patient bridge to maintain the function of the ECMO circuit and safety of the patient in the event of a circuit emergency

**Personnel:** ECMO Specialist

**Equipment:** Neonatal / Adult Bridge  
50ml Luer Lock Syringe  
Fluid (Heparinised Saline From Flush Bag c/o Transducer Set)  
Clamps x 6

**ECMO Specialist Action:**

Action:	Rationale:
Gather all supplies	To ensure an efficient procedure
Clamp circuit <b>A</b> (clamp 1 - return to patient) above patient bridge access, then clamp drainage line <b>V</b> (clamp 2 - above patient bridge access), then proceed to clamp below the bridge access on drainage side (clamp 3), then clamp 4 on the return access side (A)  Clamp sequence: <b>1 (A) – 2 (V) – 3 (V) – 4 (A)</b>	
Remove bung from arterial connector & attach bridge to arterial / return side (A)	
Attach 50ml Luer lock syringe (primed with Heparinised Saline from transducer set) to 3-way tap on P2	

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

<p>Turn 3-way tap on P2 onto the circuit</p> <p>Release clamp 4 &amp; prime bridge with Heparinised Saline</p> <p>Apply clamp 4 back to return line (A)</p> <p>Turn off 3-way tap to P2 (flush)</p> <p>Remove bung from venous connector port &amp; connect the bridge to the venous side of the circuit &amp; the release bridge clamp</p>	
<p>Remove clamp 4 (A) &amp; 3 (V) below the bridge access ports</p>	
<p>Proceed to remove clamps 2 (V) &amp; 1 (A) above the bridge access ports</p>	
<p>Proceed to place clamp 1 (A) onto the patient bridge</p> <p>Clamping sequence in order of removal: <b>4 (A) – 3 (V) – 2 (V) – 1(A) &amp; B</b></p>	<p>To minimise cavitation</p>
<p>During the trial off release the bridge clamp momentarily (up to 20 – 30 seconds) every 10 minutes.</p> <p>Document actions on Trial Off Form / ECMO Specialist Evaluation Form &amp; ensure one clamp remains on the bridge (B)</p>	<p>To maintain patency of the bridge</p>
<p>Commence trial off and refer to VA Trial Off Protocol (page 42) for further information / guidance</p>	
<p>Once finished with the bridge, clamp <b>1(A) – 2 (V) – 3 (V) – 4 (A)</b></p>	

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

Remove the bridge & discard appropriately – apply white bungs x 2 onto bridge access ports	
Remove clamps in the following sequence: <b>4 (A) – 3 (V) – 2 (V) – 1 (A)</b>	
Replace supplies as necessary and inform Duty ECMO Co-ordinator	

### Please Remember

For bridge insertion re: air removal, routine VA trial-off or any other emergency situation, please see appropriate protocol and remember the correct clamping sequence.

To clamp off = A – V – B  
To go back onto ECMO = V – A – B

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Insertion Of The Patient Bridge (Blood Primed)

**Description:** To insert the patient bridge to manage & monitor a trial off VA ECMO; maintaining the function of the ECMO circuit & the safety of the patient

To insert the patient bridge to maintain the function of the ECMO circuit and safety of the patient in the event of a circuit emergency

**Personnel:** ECMO Specialist

**Equipment:** Neonatal / Adult Bridge  
50ml Luer Lock Syringe  
Fluid (Saline From Flush Bag c/o Transducer Set)  
Clamps x 6

### ECMO Specialist Action:

Action:	Rationale:
Gather all supplies	To ensure an efficient procedure
Clamp circuit <b>A</b> (clamp 1 - return to patient) above patient bridge access, then clamp drainage line <b>V</b> (clamp 2 - above patient bridge access), then proceed to clamp below the bridge access on drainage side (clamp 3), then clamp 4 on the return access side (A)  Clamp sequence: <b>1 (A) – 2 (V) – 3 (V) – 4 (A)</b>	
Connect bridge to arterial / return side (A)	
Prime bridge (by releasing clamp 1 momentarily) with arterial return blood	

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

Once primed, connect bridge to venous drainage access bridge port & ensure the return line is clamped again by using clamp 4	
Remove clamps 4 (A) & 3 (V) below the bridge access ports	
Proceed to remove clamps 2 (V) & 1 (A) above the bridge access ports	
Proceed to place clamp 1 (A) onto the patient bridge  Clamping sequence in order of removal: <b>4 (A) – 3 (V) – 2 (V) – 1(A) &amp; B</b>	
During the trial off release the bridge clamp momentarily (up to 20 – 30 seconds) every 10 minutes. Document actions on Trial Off Form / ECMO Specialist Evaluation Form & ensure one clamp remains on the bridge (B)	To maintain patency of the bridge
Commence trial off and refer to VA Trial Off Protocol (page 42) for further information / guidance	
Once finished with the bridge, clamp <b>1(A) – 2 (V) – 3 (V) – 4 (A)</b>	
Remove the bridge & discard appropriately – apply white bungs x 2 onto bridge access ports	
Remove clamps in the following sequence: <b>4 (A) – 3 (V) – 2 (V) – 1 (A)</b>	

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

Replace supplies as necessary and inform Duty ECMO Co-ordinator	
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### **Please Remember**

For bridge insertion re: air removal, routine VA trial-off or any other emergency situation, please see appropriate protocol and remember the correct clamping sequence.

To clamp off = A – V – B  
To go back onto ECMO = V – A – B

# The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Weaning From VA Or VV ECMO

**Description:** To wean to minimal levels of ECMO support

**Personnel:** Duty ECMO Consultant  
 Duty ECMO Co-ordinator  
 ECMO Specialist  
 PICU Medical Team  
 Nurse

**ECMO Specialist Action:**

Action:	Rationale:
Four - six hourly arterial / mixed venous blood gases - keeping within written parameters	In order to recognise any trends present and keep the levels within written parameters
If the patient is ready to wean, reduce the ECMO rpm gradually; checking saturations & gases with each reduction in rpm & adjusting sweep gas accordingly in accordance with written daily parameters	<u>Weaning</u> : as per Duty ECMO Consultant's decision / instruction
If the arterial or mixed venous blood gases remain within their set parameters whilst on minimal support, then a trial off could be discussed with the Duty ECMO Consultant and arrangements made for a trial off to take place	

**Minimum Flow Parameters** (guide / reference only)

Patient < 10kg	130mls
Patient 10kg – 30kg	750mls
Patient > 30kg	2L

**Paediatric cases if circuit is configured with a 7000LT Medos / Chalice Paragon Maxi Oxygenator minimum flow = 750mls**



## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

### Comments

Weaning is the Duty ECMO Consultant's decision, otherwise leave RPM / flow to maximum for each individual patient.

Refer to parameter sheet for guidance / escalate to Duty ECMO Co-ordinator / Duty ECMO Consultant with any concerns or queries.

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Trial Off Veno-Venous ECMO

**Description:** To manage and monitor a trial off VV ECMO; maintaining the function of the ECMO circuit and the safety of the patient

**Personnel:** Duty ECMO Consultant  
 Duty ECMO Co-ordinator  
 ECMO Specialist  
 Nurse  
 ECMO Fellow

### ECMO Specialist Action:

Action:	Rationale:
Ensure Duty ECMO Co-ordinator is aware of decision to trial off  <i>NB: Duty ECMO Co-ordinator must be present for trial off period, unless in the event of an overnight trial off</i>	
Check that any pre-decannulation ETT change is performed & check patient's CXR	It is easier to make changes to the ETT whilst the patient is not dependant on the ventilator
Ensure ventilator is changed prior to commencement of trial off, not during or immediately after	
Check that new IV / arterial access is gained	
Check the patency of the existing IV access	To assess the need for further IV access
Ventilation may be increased by the Duty ECMO Consultant / Intensivist	To ensure oxygenation after membrane gas supply

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

<p>Disconnect sweep gas supply to the Oxygenator, increase the flow – documenting the time on the Trial-off Sheet</p>	
<p>Keep relatives &amp; staff informed accordingly throughout</p> <p><i>NB: The minimum trial off period is two hours, unless the patient's condition warrants going back on ECMO sooner or makes rapid decannulation advisable – this is at the discretion of the Duty ECMO Consultant</i></p>	<p>To reduce anxiety, ensure patient safety and make sure the patient is suitable to remove from ECMO support</p>
<p>Document the trial off on appropriate Trial Off Forms &amp; ECMO Chart</p>	

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Trial Off Veno-Arterial ECMO

**Description:** To manage and monitor a trial off VA ECMO; maintaining the function of the ECMO circuit and the safety of the patient

**Personnel:** Duty ECMO Consultant  
 Duty ECMO Co-ordinator  
 ECMO Specialist  
 Nurse  
 PICU Medical Team

**Equipment:** VA Trial Off Documentation      Emergency Drugs  
 6 x Clamps      Clock / Watch  
 Neonatal / Adult Bridge  
 Hemochron Signature Elite ACT Machine  
 Hemochron Signature Test Cuvettes  
 Heparin Infusions (prescribed on prescription chart)

### ECMO Specialist Action:

Action:	Rationale:
Ensure Duty ECMO Co-ordinator is aware of decision to trial off  <i>NB: Duty ECMO Co-ordinator must be present for trial off period, unless in the event of an overnight trial off</i>	
Check that any pre-decannulation ETT change is performed – check CXR / echocardiogram	It is easier to make changes to the ETT whilst the patient is not dependant on the ventilator
Check that sufficient IV / arterial access is available	
Check the patency of the existing IV access	To assess the need for further IV access

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

<p>Transfer Heparin infusion from circuit to patient – continue at current rate</p> <p><b>This practice may vary according to Duty ECMO Consultant instructions – please refer to Trial Off document / instructions for guidance</b></p>	<p>Need to maintain heparinisation of the patient &amp; patency of the cannula</p>
<p>Transfer necessary infusions from the circuit to the patient</p>	<p>To keep essential drug infusions maintained</p>
<p>Ventilator settings will be increased by the Duty ECMO Consultant / Intensivist</p>	<p>To ensure adequate oxygenation when off ECMO</p>
<p>Insert patient bridge (as per protocol – refer to page 35) and ensure the bridge is clamped (B)</p>	
<p>Clamp the patient off ECMO by clamping the arterial line (A) then the venous line (V) as near to the cannula as possible</p> <p>Release bridge clamp (B)</p>	<p>To remove the patient from ECLS, whilst ensuring they have sufficient blood volume for their own circulation</p>
<p>Disconnect sweep gas</p>	<p>To prevent a possible build-up of gas pressure and thus emboli</p>
<p>Document the time trial off commenced using the VA ECMO Trial Off Record Sheet</p>	<p>An accurate note of the commencement of trial off is required</p>
<p>To flush cannula release (V – A) and apply clamp to bridge (B)</p> <p>Every 10 minutes apply a clamp to V &amp; a clamp to A, then release B every 20 – 30 seconds to allow blood to flow freely between cannula (V+A) – observe gradient &amp; flow</p>	<p>To prevent clot formation in the cannulae and to maintain patency of cannulae &amp; the ECMO circuit</p> <p>To release the venous clamp first to prevent retrograde flow / cavitation</p>

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

<p>Repeat as above for the entire duration of trial off period</p> <p>Full circuit checks must be maintained throughout the trial off period</p> <p>Any concerns escalate to Duty ECMO Co-ordinator / Perfusionist / Duty ECMO Consultant / Intensivist</p>	
<p>Maintain the circuit without sweep gas supply until decannulation or re-commencement of ECMO occurs (decision of the Duty ECMO Consultant)</p>	
<p>Perform patient ACT at start of the procedure in line with prescribed ACT range – documented on trial off sheet</p> <p>Bedside Nurse / ECMO Specialist to perform arterial blood gas &amp; aspirate 0.2ml blood sample for ACT – as instructed on trial off sheet</p>	
<p>Keep relatives / all team members informed accordingly throughout</p> <p><i>NB: The maximum trial off period is two hours unless indicated by the Duty ECMO Consultant</i></p> <p>Must ensure good / adequate flow through cannulae &amp; observe gradient &amp; flow across oxygenator</p>	<p>To reduce anxiety, ensure patient safety and make sure the patient is suitable to remove from ECMO support</p>
<p>Document the trial off on designated Trial Off Form &amp; ECMO Chart</p>	
<p>If the trial off is unsuccessful, re-establish ECMO and remove the bridge from the circuit</p>	

### **VA Trial Off Retrograde Flow**

Please follow protocol as above prior to commencement of trial off.

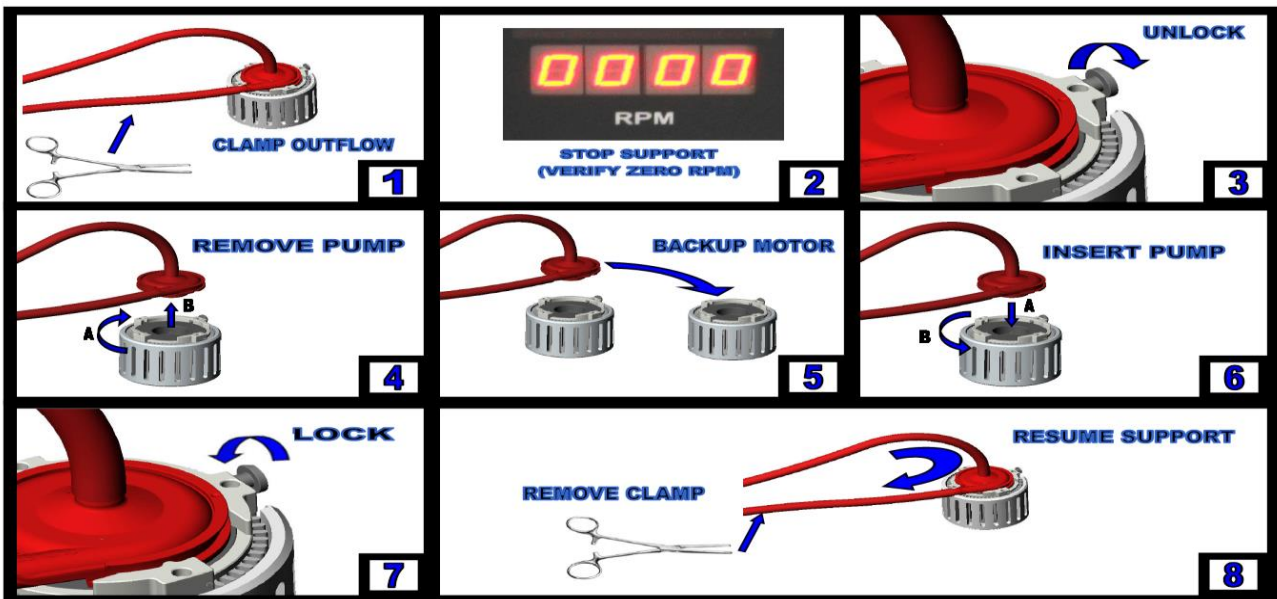
- 1) Reverse flow probe
- 2) Decrease revs per minute (RPM) – aim for flow of:
  - 100 – 150mls/minute (Medos 800LT / Chalice Paragon Oxygenator)
  - 300 – 400mls/minute flow (Medos 2400LT / Chalice Paragon Oxygenator)
  - 500 – 600mls/minute flow (Medos 7000LT / Chalice Paragon Oxygenator)
- 3) Adjust inotropes / ventilation as required as instructed by Duty ECMO Consultant
- 4) Administer fluid / volume as required as prescribed
- 5) Monitor arterial blood gases every 30 minutes during trial off period
- 6) For prolonged trial off, refer to parameter / trial off sheet for guidance





# The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

- New console & pump head to be replaced by on-call Perfusionist immediately
- Full documentation of events to be recorded by ECMO Specialist, Perfusionist & ECMO Fellow in patient's / specialist's notes
- Clinical incident form to be completed by ECMO Specialist for further investigation
- Relatives / family to be fully informed / supported by ECMO Co-ordinator, ECMO Specialist, ECMO Fellow, Duty ECMO Consultant & Nurse



## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:** Decannulation Protocol

**Description:** To assist in the decannulation of an ECMO patient following a successful trial off

**Personnel:** Duty ECMO Consultant                      Duty ECMO Co-ordinator  
 ECMO Specialist    PICU Medical Team  
 Nurse  
 Theatre Team (for VA or cut-down cannulation site)

**Equipment:** Theatre Tray / Diathermy (if VA)                      6 x Clamps  
 Yellow Bin    2 x Sutures  
 Dressings (for Cannulae sites)    Stitch Cutter  
 Dressing Pack (for each site)    ChloroPrep Solution

**ECMO Specialist Action:**

Action:	Rationale:
Gather all supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If decannulating from VV ECMO, notify appropriate staff</li> <li>• If decannulating from VA ECMO or cut down site, the Theatre Team is also required</li> </ul>	To ensure an efficient procedure
Ensure venous access to the patient is secure & patent and the necessary drugs are transferred to the patient & running as per prescription  Antibiotic therapy as prescribed  <u>Action:</u> Intensivist / Duty ECMO Consultant	To ensure satisfactory patient status & safety
Ensure emergency drugs are drawn up and at hand for immediate use	To prevent complications or patient deterioration
Ensure ventilation is correct and re-intubation equipment is ready at hand for immediate use	To ensure patient safety

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

Assist Surgeon with the procedure, as required	For a quick, efficient & safe procedure
Monitor patient's status throughout the procedure & document accordingly	For patient safety
Dispose of the circuit, as per the ECMO Equipment Clean-up Procedure	To maintain a clean & safe environment
Ensure all documentation is completed and signed by ECMO Specialist on duty	For future records
Any concerns post-decannulation, contact the Duty ECMO Co-ordinator / Duty ECMO Consultant or nominated Deputy	To gain advice / further instructions and to make them aware of the patient's status
Seek medical advice regarding the necessity for administration of antibiotics	To reduce the risk of decannulation bacteraemia

### Comments

#### VA decannulation

If vessels are reconstructed, please seek medical advice with regards to Heparin infusion.

#### Recommendation

Heparin infusion at 10 units/kg/hr as a maintenance infusion, as prescribed.

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

**Title:**            **Equipment Clean-up Procedure**

**Description:** To maintain the ECMO circuit components, day to day running of the circuit and decannulation & disposal of equipment

**Personnel:**    ECMO Specialist  
                    Duty ECMO Co-ordinator

**Equipment:** Hemochron Signature Elite ACT Machine      Soap & Water  
                    ECMO Cart & Equipment                                Emergency Cart  
                    Infusion Devices

**ECMO Specialist Action:**

<b>Action:</b>	<b>Rationale:</b>
Ensure the ECMO cart is cleaned on a daily basis with water / detergent / Trigene as per IP unit protocol (or as often as required) and documented on ECMO Specialist Evaluation Sheet stating the cart name	To maintain a clean & safe environment
Ensure all components are in good working order – inform the Duty ECMO Co-ordinator / Perfusion Department of any defects	To ensure the circuit is functioning properly
In the event of decannulation, all disposable components should be put into the yellow Bin (from the ECMO Store Room)  Place lid on the yellow bin & ensure it is securely sealed (dated / timed / location noted & signed) <b>*ensure count clamps prior to sealing yellow bin*</b>	To ensure safe disposal of the circuit

## The Heart Link / ECMO Programme

Clean all equipment & store in the ECMO Storeroom	To ensure safe disposal of the circuit
Ensure the ECMO cart is plugged into the mains electrical supply  Ensure that the UHL clean & ready for use equipment label is attached to the cart, signed & dated	
Dispose of the Emergency Cart items to the allocated area	
Contact Blood Bank once patient has been decannulated & ensure they are aware the patient no longer requires any blood products	

### Comments

If cart not found to be clean, must be returned to responsible ECMO Specialist for re-cleaning - in line with UHL Infection Control Policy

DATIX form to be completed.