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Guy's and St Thomas'
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NHS

Addressing the increasing need for stable complex ventilation beds – a new specialist centre

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The number of patients requiring long-term tracheostomy ventilation (LTTV) is rising¹ and this cohort of patients utilise a significant proportion of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) resources. With limited ICU beds, there is a drive to deliver care for stable LTTV patients in a more appropriate location.^{2,3}

Addressing the demand

The Lane Fox REMEO® Respiratory Centre in Surrey, UK, is the country's first 20 bed purpose-built centre for stable LTTV. Admission to Lane Fox REMEO® is pursued once a medical decision is reached that the patient is unable to be liberated from invasive ventilation. The move to Lane Fox REMEO® facilitates the transition of a LTTV patient from hospital to home as well as releasing an ICU bed.

This specialist centre is a joint venture between The Linde Group's REMEO® service and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK. Lane Fox REMEO® has a standardised clinical pathway that outlines how to manage complex care which is then delivered in a "home-like"⁴ environment. The centre has been designed using natural light and complementary colour schemes to aid recovery and utilised patient feedback during the design of the building.

Clinical pathway

Lane Fox REMEO® is a nurse-led unit staffed by highly trained specialist high-dependency registered nurses, health care assistants and a specialist physiotherapist. Medical management is given by Consultants from the Lane Fox Unit, St Thomas' Hospital who visit the centre twice weekly. Further consultations are held remotely using innovative interactive technology (E-Cart).

The unit provides exceptional care for patients with a wide range of conditions including Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, Guillan-Barre Syndrome and Multiple Sclerosis. Each patient receives a personalised care plan which promotes "multi-dimensional and functional rehabilitation".⁴

Caregiver training

As the patients prepare to go home, Lane Fox REMEO® actively encourages caregivers to engage in the care received by the patient. The caregivers develop skills at the centre that are adapted to be delivered at home. Training is delivered by the clinical staff and includes a combination of theory and practice using innovative teaching tools.

Staff training and development

Training has been designed to complement the complex nature of our patients. Each staff member is skilled to support the holistic and rehabilitative needs of the patients and staff are continually responsive to the patients' changing requirements. Ongoing development of staff is supported by the specialist training and quality practitioner nurse.

The future

With the increasing numbers of patients requiring LTTV there is a continuous need to create centres like the Lane Fox REMEO® Centre across the UK to deliver specialist LTTV care.



References:

¹Zilberberg MD, de Wit M, Pirone JR, Shorr AF. Growth in adult prolonged acute mechanical ventilation: implications for healthcare delivery. Crit Care Med. 2008 May;36(5):1451-5.

²Blackwood B, Alderdice F, Burns K, Cardwell C, Lavery G, O'Halloran P. Use of weaning protocols for reducing duration of mechanical ventilation in critically ill adult patients: Cochrane systematic review and meta-analysis. BMJ. 2011;342:c7237

³Robson V, Poynter J, Lawler PG, Baudouin SV. The need for a regional weaning centre, a one-year survey of intensive care weaning delay in the Northern Region of England. Anaesthesia. 2003 Feb;58(2):161-5.

⁴ <http://www.remeo.com/en/index.html>