

What’s the Problem?

As increasing numbers of Covid-19 patients were admitted to the hospital and progressed thru their disease course, the Division of Hospital Medicine noted an increased need for enteral feeding access for their patients. At the same time, the Nutritional Support Clinical Nurse Specialists were seeing an increase in requests for assistance with use of Cortrak technology for insertion of Dobhoff tube (DHT) insertion for high risk patients diagnosed with Covid-19.

Cause analysis

- Medical Resident teams staffing teaching services on Hospital Medicine teams had limited widespread proficiency in insertion of DHT
- Advance Practice Providers (APPs) on Hospital Medicine teams also had limited proficiency in insertion of DHT
- In the peak of the COVID-19 crisis at TJUH, there were multiple high acuity patients, outside the ICU, that needed DHT inserted
- DHT is a high risk procedure for a patient with COVID-19 and limiting the number of providers attempting insertion or confirming tube placement is ideal

How Might We Increase the Number of Providers trained in Dobhoff Tube Insertion rapidly?

- As experts in the use of the Cortrak device, the Nutritional Support Clinical Nurse Specialists have expertise in training providers in use of Cortrak device
- As the problem was identified, the Lead APP for Hospital Medicine was able to quickly partner with The Nutrition Support CNSs to train APPs on hospital Medicine to assist with large numbers of patients needing DHT on ALL Hospital medicine teams
- The Nutritional Support Clinical Nurse Specialists were able to use existing protocols and procedures for training on DHT insertion to rapidly on board APPs in Hospital Medicine on use of Cortrak for insertion of DHT
- Hospital Medicine Lead APP, initially created a schedule for learning and inserting which proved to be time consuming for communicating to the appropriate APP who may or may not be available
- Using Secure texting (Tiger Connect), the Nutrition Support CNSs were able to send out to the group chat the need for tube insertion on any patient, regardless of COVID diagnosis or team, of which a request was made for DHT
- Any available Hospital Medicine APP would be able to “pick up” the opportunity for the insertion of the tube
- **WINS: The Nutrition Support CNSs were able to supervise and “sign off” on 3 APPs in only 3 weeks of trialing the intervention, several others are close to proficiency**

Future Areas of Opportunity:

- Continued use of “Pick up” with Nutrition Support CNSs and Hospital Medicine APPs for patients requiring DHT insertion, allowing for APPs to continue this skill for the future
- Use of “Pick up” for other procedures across hospital medicine,

