

## **Patient Consult / Work-Up / Transfer and Transport Process**

*Early notification of VAD patients to a transplant center permits early consultation and discussion of heart transplant work-up, long term strategies and safe transport.*

### **When to Call:**

- Any potential implant of a Ventricular Assist Device.
- Any Implanted Ventricular Assist Device
- Any Ventricular Assist Device Patient unable to wean nearing the end of short term support.
- Any clinical situations that may requires consultation with a heart transplant / VAD surgeon or coordinator.

### **Who to call:**

#### **•URMC Consult and Transfer Center 1-800 499 9298**

- For consultation with a Surgeon : 585.275.6964
- To speak to a VAD or Heart Transplant coordinator : 1-800-892-4964
- To page a VAD Support Specialist : 1-585-275-1616 Pager 7613

### **What to expect:**

Often centers call to discuss VAD back-up cases, clinical situations, heart transplant work-ups, nursing care guidelines or to request transfer. The URMC Artificial Heart Program Staff is available 24/7 to assist in the care of VAD patients and families and is willing to discuss any part of the patient's care.

When requesting a transfer, the transfer and transport will be coordinated through the URMC Consult and Transfer Center (SCTC). The transfer nurse will ask for some preliminary information and arrange a conference call to discuss the patient. The sending hospital will need to fax the patient's face sheet for insurance and admitting approval to 585.256.3156.

Transport will be arranged by ground or air utilizing the URMC Cardiac Transport Team. This team includes surgeons, nurses, perfusionist, respiratory therapists and paramedics and can be activated to aid in the stabilization and transport of the patient.

Upon arrival of the transport team, the team will meet with the transferring team and get a team report. The team will meet with the patient's family to discuss the patient, their wishes and create an understanding of the road ahead. This family meeting can often take over an hour. The team will continue to work with the transferring team to stabilize and package the patient. Transport of the patient will occur in a careful and controlled manner when the patient is safely ready.



## Patient Transfer Check Sheet

Transfer Center 1.800.499.9298 FAX 585.256.3156

### Does the patient meet transfer criteria?

- Evidence of Neurological function (GCS >8)
- Adequate VAD Flows (pump index > 2.2)
- Adequate oxygenation and gas exchange  $PO_2 > 60$  on  $< .90$   $FiO_2$
- Bleeding < 250 cc / hour

*Not meeting criteria should not prevent discussing the case to proceed with transfer*

Discuss patients wishes for further long term care, reassure the family the transport team will be able to discuss options further and will want to meet with them on their arrival.

Call the Strong Consult and Transfer Center 1.800.499.9298 or 585.273.4344

Complete and fax the patients face sheet and patient transfer worksheet

Obtain helpful clinical information

○ If there was a down time (CPR) how long was it?

○ Degree of organ dysfunction?

▪ (LFTs, BUN/Creat, Lactate, Abdominal assessment)

○ Any obvious contraindications to heart transplant?

▪ (Cancer, severe PVD, BMI > 40, life expectancy < 2 years without heart failure, medical non-compliance, substance abuse )

**When copying the chart, please make sure to copy or obtain**

○ Any consult notes

○ Any microbiology data

○ Copies of any operative reports

○ Real (CD/DVDC/VHS) copies of Cardiac Cath and Echo reports

○ Status of emergency Medicare / Medicaid applications