ECMO express: retrieval service
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Introduction
ECMO (extra-corporeal circuit oxygenation) is the use of a cardiopulmonary bypass circuit for temporary life support for patients with potentially reversible cardiac and/or respiratory failure. However, with the financial and geographical restriction of resources, the availability of ECMO service is still limiting to a few major public hospitals in Hong Kong. Under this circumstance, the ECMO retrieval service was born for the greater benefit of critically ill population. Team composition and nursing responsibilities: QMH AICU first started the emergency ECMO retrieval service in Jan 2011. The retrieval team compose of both doctors and nurses. A competent retrieval team nurse is required to tackle patient and ECMO machine problems independently.

Objectives
To establish a sustainable care model with timely retrieval and patient safety as priority.

Methodology
Assess and analyze the team structure, response time/retrieval logistics and patients' outcome retrospectively by using the Donabedian Quality of Care Framework.

Result
1. Currently, there are 20% of the total nursing staffs in QMH AICU have been trained for retrieval service. 2. The response time from accepting referral to arrival at remote destination is within 90 minutes. 3. 9 cases were retrieved for ECMO support since Jan 2011. Zero incidents were noted during transferal. 55% of these patients survived and discharged from ICU without permanent disability.