

CRITICAL Incident Learning

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

RAPID SEQUENCE INTUBATION KITS

We are in the process of restricting Neuromuscular Blocking Agents (NMBAs) from the widespread locations in the hospital to only in critical care units, ED and anesthesia stock. The concern is that if we have to maintain a “crash intubation” or “anesthesia kit” for the Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI) happening in various wards, clinics etc. What is the best way to do this? We are thinking of having a ‘grab and go’ sort of kit available for RSIs and whenever a code is called, a staff member can grab the kit and take it to the site of the emergency. This will eliminate the need of having NMBA at each location. Is this the right approach?

This is one possible approach; however ensure that practitioners responsible for taking the kits to the code areas are involved in determining the storage locations of the kits. Keep in mind that some NMBAs require refrigeration which needs to be considered in kit storage location and expiry date monitoring. Room temperature expiration dates for NMBAs that normally require refrigeration are substantially shorter than the labelled date provided by the manufacturer, which assumes storage under optimal conditions. The RSI kit should be labelled with the expiry date of the NMBA (based on storage conditions), as well as the earliest expiry date of the other medications in the kit. Once the kit has been opened, directions should indicate that the entire kit must be returned to Pharmacy to be refilled, resealed and relabelled.

Availability of NMBAs is addressed in the ISMP Canada [Hospital Medication Safety Self- Assessment, Canadian Version III, 2016](#):

9.15 Neuromuscular blocking agents are only available in rapid sequence intubation kits, operating rooms, post-anaesthetic care units, or critical care areas and these medications are sequestered from other floor stock medications (including those stocked in ADCs) with additional safeguards (e.g., auxiliary warnings, locked containers with lids, locked-lidded drawers in ADCs).

****Never event: Neuromuscular blockade without sedation, airway control and ventilation capability.****

See <http://www.ismp-canada.org/mssa.htm> for more information about ISMP Canada’s Medication Safety Self-Assessment programs.