



# COVID-19 Update

**Date:** April 13, 2021

**To:** HHS Physicians

**From:** Dr. Michael Stacey, EVP, Academic and CME

**Subject:** **HGH Protected Code Blue (PCB) Coverage and G-Code Modifier**

Starting **April 15<sup>th</sup> at 0700**, we will begin scheduling a daytime Protected Code Blue (PCB) physician at HGH. The PCB physician will work alongside the RACE physician providing support for the care of ICU patients surged to HIU. The PCB physician will also provide support for the site together with the RACE physician.

Activating PCB means that **all physicians at HGH will not be permitted to submit G-code modifier during the time of the PCB shift (0700-1900)**. Please see the excerpt from the MOH funding guidelines below. The G-code modifier is applicable when PCB services are not being used (i.e. from 1900-0700). Please know that we anticipate the need for PCB coverage at night in the coming days/weeks.

PCB coverage is ongoing for night shifts at the Juravinski site (1900-0700). As with HGH, we may need to enhance this to include dayshifts in the coming days/weeks.

## **New Funding Alternative – In-Hospital Protected or Pre-Emptive Protected Code Blue**

The ministry is also providing a new option for hospitals as an alternative to reactivating their Protected Code Blue or Pre-Emptive Protected Code Blue response team funding.

Hospitals will now have the option to have physicians receive a 30% payment modifier on three Critical Care fee codes G521, G522 and G523 (G-codes) *instead of* activating the Protected Code Blue or Pre-Emptive Protected Code Blue response team funding, under the terms of the earlier Phase 2 agreement.

The G-code modifier will be payable to physicians who perform these services in the hospital for patients requiring resuscitation including endotracheal intubation who are COVID-19 positive or who are treated as at-risk of being COVID-19 positive under local hospital policy.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support during this very challenging time.

Regards,

  
Michael