

COVID-19: Very Rapid Updates and Safety (ViRUS)

Slowness to recognise or seek help for respiratory patients on mechanical ventilation.

What happened?

Slowness to recognise or seek help for respiratory patients on mechanical ventilation, including desynchrony, tachypnoea on pressure support and episodes of desaturation. Failure to recognise importance or urgency of problems and seek help.

Why might this be more likely than usual to happen during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Lack of adequate training, supervision and support for nursing staff new to intensive care.

How could this have been identified early in its course/how it could have been prevented or mitigated if recognised earlier?

Earlier recognition of the impending scale of the problem and provision of on the job training.

How have you managed to resolve this issue or create a work around?

More vigilance and frequent reviews of all patients. This is challenging when there are a high number of ventilated patients to look after (>20).