

EMERGENCY AND ICU DEPARTMENT ECMO INITIATION CHECKLIST

ACTIVATE VA-ECMO TEAM URGENTLY FOR:

- Refractory cardiogenic shock despite appropriate fluids, vasoactive therapy, and treatment of the underlying cause
- Acute myocardial infarction with profound cardiogenic shock
- Fulminant myocarditis
- Massive pulmonary embolism with shock/cardiac arrest
- Refractory ventricular arrhythmia/electrical storm with circulatory collapse
- Drug/toxin-induced reversible cardiovascular collapse
- Severe hypothermia with cardiovascular instability/arrest
- Acute RV failure
- Post-cardiotomy or other reversible acute cardiac failure
- Refractory cardiac arrest ECPR

These are recognized clinical scenarios in which VA-ECMO may provide temporary circulatory support while the reversible cause is treated or while definitive advanced therapy is considered.

CONSIDER VV-ECMO FOR:

- Severe potentially reversible acute respiratory failure despite optimal conventional management
- Severe ARDS with refractory hypoxemia
- Severe hypercapnic respiratory failure with unacceptable acidosis despite optimal ventilation
- Refractory hypoxemia despite lung-protective ventilation and appropriate adjunctive therapies

VV-ECMO provides respiratory support but does not provide direct circulatory support; significant cardiogenic shock generally requires VA or a hybrid configuration.