

Manual:	Emergency Preparedness	Reference No.:	<b>004010.00</b>
Section:	Code Blue – Medical Emergency		
Subject:	<b>Medical Emergencies</b>		

**POLICY:**

To ensure a system is implemented to alert individuals in the facility of a medical emergency and to provide a systematic approach for responding to it.

**PROCEDURE:**

A medical emergency is defined as the sudden onset of an illness or injury serious enough to require immediate medical or skilled nursing intervention.

A sudden illness or injury can happen to anyone – resident, staff member, volunteer or visitor.

1. Upon discovering the emergency:

- a) Pull the nearest call bell and alert nearby staff by shouting **CODE BLUE**;
- b) Stay with the injured person
- c) If no response to the call bell or the call for help, use the overhead paging system announcing **CODE BLUE**, floor number, location of the emergency, then return to the injured person and begin assessment and/or resuscitation.

2. Upon receiving the page for “**CODE BLUE**”:

- a. The professional nursing staff of the units will respond immediately to the location  
The cold blue cart, blood pressure cuff and stethoscope will also be delivered to the emergency site.
- b. The unit Charge Nurse will go immediately to the area of **CODE BLUE** and direct the emergency scene until EMS personnel arrive.

3. The Charge Nurse on duty will direct the code and ensure appropriate emergency procedures are administered.

- a. The Charge Nurse directs the Emergency Medical System to be activated by calling 911 where appropriate. A staff member will be delegated to make the call, indicating the emergency giving the injured person’s name, birth date, address of the facility, location of the emergency and follow the instructions of the dispatcher. The staff member is to request the name of the dispatcher before concluding the call.
- b. A staff member will be assigned to put the elevator on service and wait for EMS personnel on the main floor .

4. The registered nurse on the unit where the code is will:

- a. Complete the transfer and referral record and ambulance DNR validity form (for residents only) if time permits, obtain the injured person’s Ontario Health Card and give complete report to EMS personnel prior to transfer to hospital.
- b. Contact the Executive Director, if not on the premises and inform him/her of the situation.

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- c. Notify the resident's family or representative.
- d. Inform the attending Physician if unable to contact prior to transfer. If the incident occurred during the night, the attending physician will be notified on the following day shift by the day RN/RPN.
- e. Complete all required documentation.

**If this is a resident emergency: Refer to resident incident reporting for documentation and follow up.**

**If this is a visitor emergency: Refer to Medical Emergency Response, Administration Manual**

**If this is a staff emergency:**

**Refer to Work Related Injury or Illness, OHS Manual**

**Refer to Critical Injury Report, OHS Manual**

- f. Ensure that all emergency equipment is replenished/cleaned following the emergency and returned to its storage location.

**Additional References/Related Policies:**

College of Nurses of Ontario Standards of Practice