

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES

1. Code Blue - Cardiac Arrest

Code Blue is activated for any patient experiencing cardiac or respiratory arrest. Call the emergency response number immediately. Begin CPR within 10 seconds of recognition. The crash cart must arrive within 3 minutes. Defibrillation should occur within 5 minutes of collapse. Document all interventions and times accurately.

2. Code Red - Fire Emergency

Upon discovering a fire, follow RACE protocol: Rescue patients in immediate danger, Activate the alarm, Contain the fire by closing doors, Evacuate or Extinguish. Know the location of fire extinguishers and emergency exits. Never use elevators during a fire. Account for all patients after evacuation.

3. Code Pink - Infant Abduction

Code Pink is activated when an infant abduction is suspected. All exits must be secured immediately. Staff should monitor all persons leaving with infants. Security will lock down the facility. Do not confront suspected abductors directly. Provide detailed descriptions to security personnel.

4. Rapid Response Team

The Rapid Response Team should be activated for any patient showing signs of clinical deterioration. Early warning signs include respiratory distress, altered mental status, or significant vital sign changes. The team includes a physician, critical care nurse, and respiratory therapist. Response time should be within 5 minutes.

5. Mass Casualty Incident

In a mass casualty event, the Hospital Incident Command System is activated. Triage using START method: Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment. Categories are immediate, delayed, minor, and expectant. Surge capacity plans must be implemented. Communication with emergency services is essential.

6. Severe Weather Protocol

Tornado warnings require moving patients to interior hallways away from windows. Hurricane preparations begin 72 hours before expected landfall. Essential personnel must remain on site during severe weather. Emergency generators must be tested and fueled. Patient discharge should be expedited when safe.

7. Active Shooter Response

Follow RUN, HIDE, FIGHT protocol. Run if there is a safe escape path. Hide in a secure location, lock doors, turn off lights. Fight only as a last resort. Call 911 when safe. When law enforcement arrives, keep hands visible and follow all instructions.