

X Healthcare Policy: Code Orange – Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Influx Management for the Emergency Department and Level 1 Trauma Bay Activation

Policy Number: 12

Rationale: This policy is specific to X Healthcare's resources, layout, staff roles, and communication plans during a mass casualty event. It details how the Emergency Department expands capacity, which trauma bays are activated, staff recall procedures, and coordination with external EMS, all tailored to X Healthcare's capabilities and designated role in regional disaster plans. It also covers the rapid movement and allocation of critical equipment to designated surge areas within the ED.

Activation of Code Orange

Code Orange is activated by the Emergency Department Charge Nurse or Physician when the department anticipates or receives notification of an impending or actual Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) involving more than 15 patients expected to arrive at X Healthcare.

Emergency Department Expansion Capacity

Upon Code Orange activation, the following measures are to be initiated:

- **Designated Surge Area:** The ED waiting room is converted into a triage and holding area. 30 additional beds are set up.
- **Fast Track Area:** Converted to an intermediate care area with capacity for 10 patients.
- **Hallway Bedding:** Corridors are utilized for patient placement, accommodating an additional 15 stretchers.

Level 1 Trauma Bay Activation

- **Primary Trauma Bays:** Trauma Bays 1, 2, and 3 are activated immediately.
- **Secondary Trauma Bays:** If needed, Trauma Bays 4 and 5 are prepped for surge capacity.

Staff Recall Procedures

- **Tier 1 Recall:** All on-call ED staff, including physicians, nurses, technicians, and support staff, are contacted. Expect a minimum of 20 additional staff within 30 minutes.
- **Tier 2 Recall:** Additional personnel from other departments (OR, ICU) are notified for potential support if Tier 1 is insufficient. Minimum of 15 personnel.

Communication Plan

- **Internal Communication:** Use the designated hospital-wide Code Orange alert system.
- **External Communication:** Contact the regional EMS dispatch with estimated capacity and resource needs. Inform dispatch of ability to accept 50 patients within the first hour.
- **Incident Command Center:** Established in Conference Room B within 15 minutes of Code Orange activation.

Equipment Allocation

- **Ventilators:** 10 additional ventilators are immediately moved to the surge area.
- **Trauma Carts:** 3 additional trauma carts are prepared and positioned in the main ED and surge area.
- **Supplies:** An additional 20 supply boxes containing IV fluids, bandages, and other necessary medical supplies are deployed to the surge areas.

Coordination with External EMS

- **Direct Communication:** Establish direct radio communication with EMS for patient arrival updates.

- **Staging Area:** Designated staging area for ambulances is located at the South Entrance. Ensure ability to stage at least 10 ambulances.

Debriefing

A debriefing session involving all participating staff will be held within 72 hours of the Code Orange deactivation. The goal is to improve protocol for managing at least 50 patients under such emergency circumstances.