

# Breaking the Code - Survey (UNASSIGNED)

## Survey Flow

**Block: Introduction to Project/ Demographics (6 Questions)**

**Standard: Intro to Specific Emergencies (2 Questions)**

**Standard: Specific Emergencies (42 Questions)**

**Standard: Code Experience (9 Questions)**

Page Break

---

---

## Start of Block: Introduction to Project/ Demographics

Q1 Dear Sir/Madam:

I am a professor in the Institute for Disaster Management at The University of Georgia. I invite you to participate in a research study entitled Breaking the Code: Transitioning from Colors to Plain Language that is being conducted under the auspices of the University of Georgia. **The purpose of this study is to determine the knowledge base of clinical and non-clinical staff in healthcare settings regarding codes paged overhead during an emergency/disaster.**

**To be eligible to participate in the survey participants must be 18 years of age or older, be employed by the healthcare facility, and NOT be an administrator of the healthcare facility.**

Your participation will involve you answering survey questions based on your knowledge of the current system and should only take approximately 15 to 20 minutes. **Your involvement in the study is voluntary**, and you may choose not to participate or to stop at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you choose not to participate this will have no bearing on your employment or evaluation. If you decide to stop or withdraw from the study, the information/data collected from or about you up to the point of your withdrawal will be kept as part of the study and may continue to be analyzed.

**The results of the survey are completely confidential.** The survey will not ask for your name, social security number, or any other pieces of identifying information that could be linked back to you. The results of the research study may be published, but your name or any identifying information will not be used. In fact, the published results will be presented in summary form only.

The findings from this project may provide information on necessary changes to improve patient health outcomes; response times; and general safety of staff, patients, and visitors. There are no known risks or discomforts associated with this research.

If you have any questions about this research project, please feel free to call Curt Harris at (706) 380-1456 or [cuharris@uga.edu](mailto:cuharris@uga.edu). Questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant should be directed to The Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board, 609 Boyd GSRC, Athens, Georgia 30602; telephone (706) 542-3199; email address [irb@uga.edu](mailto:irb@uga.edu).

**By completing and submitting this electronic questionnaire, you are agreeing to participate in the above described research project.**

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,  
Curt Harris, PhD

---

Page Break

---

**Q2 Do you work in a clinical (e.g., physician, nurse practitioner) or non-clinical (e.g., administrative, custodial, security) capacity?**

- ☐ Clinical (1)
- ☐ Non-clinical (2)
- 

**Q3 How long have you worked in the healthcare field?**

- ☐ 0-2 years (1)
- ☐ 2-5 years (2)
- ☐ 5-8 years (3)
- ☐ > 8 years (4)
- 



**Q4 Approximately how many years have you worked at this healthcare facility?**

---



**Q5 Approximately how many healthcare facilities (including current) have you worked at in your career?**

---

**Q6 What is currently your MOST typical shift at this medical facility?**

- ☐ Day Shift (1)
- ☐ Night Shift (2)
- ☐ Equal times on both shifts (3)

End of Block: Introduction to Project/ Demographics

---


Start of Block: Intro to Specific Emergencies

**Q7 The following questions focus on the emergency codes for specific incidents at the hospital where you're taking this survey.**

NOTE: "Plain language" refers to emergency announcements stated plainly (e.g., "fire on floor 3") instead of an announcement via coded language (e.g., "Code Purple" or "Code Alpha").

-----

**Q8 On a scale of 1 to 7 (with 1 being "Not at all confident" and 7 being "Very confident") how confident are you in your own knowledge of the emergency codes at this medical facility?**

	1	2	3	5	6	7
Confidence in Code Knowledge ()						

End of Block: Intro to Specific Emergencies

---

Start of Block: Specific Emergencies

QA1 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for FIRE?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for FIRE? = Color Code*

QA2 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for FIRE:

▼ Amber (1) ... UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for FIRE? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for FIRE? = Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage)*

QA3 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for FIRE?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Page Break

QB1 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for CARDIAC ARREST?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for CARDIAC ARREST? = Color Code*

QB2 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for CARDIAC ARREST:

▼ Amber (1) ... UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for CARDIAC ARREST? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for CARDIAC ARREST? = Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage)*

QB3 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for CARDIAC ARREST?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Page Break

QC1 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY? = Color Code*

QC2 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY:

▼ Amber (1) ... UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY? = Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage)*

QC3 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Page Break



QD1 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for BOMB THREAT?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for BOMB THREAT? = Color Code*

QD2 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for BOMB THREAT:

▼ Amber (1) ... UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for BOMB THREAT? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for BOMB THREAT? = Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage)*

QD3 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for BOMB THREAT?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Page Break

QE1 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for COMBATIVE PERSON, SECURITY, or VIOLENCE?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for COMBATIVE PERSON, SECURITY, or VIOLENCE? = Color Code*

QE2 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for COMBATIVE PERSON, SECURITY, or VIOLENCE:

▼ Amber (1) ... UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for COMBATIVE PERSON, SECURITY, or VIOLENCE? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for COMBATIVE PERSON, SECURITY, or VIOLENCE? = Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage)*

QE3 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for COMBATIVE PERSON, SECURITY, or VIOLENCE?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Page Break

QF1 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for PERSON WITH WEAPON or ACTIVE SHOOTER?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for PERSON WITH WEAPON or ACTIVE SHOOTER? = Color Code*

QF2 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for PERSON WITH WEAPON or ACTIVE SHOOTER:

▼ Amber (1) ... UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for PERSON WITH WEAPON or ACTIVE SHOOTER? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for PERSON WITH WEAPON or ACTIVE SHOOTER? = Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage)*

QF3 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for PERSON WITH WEAPON or ACTIVE SHOOTER?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Page Break

QG1 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for INFANT ABDUCTION?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for INFANT ABDUCTION? = Color Code*

QG2 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for INFANT ABDUCTION:

▼ Amber (1) ... UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for INFANT ABDUCTION? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for INFANT ABDUCTION? = Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage)*

QG3 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for INFANT ABDUCTION?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Page Break

QH1 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT? = Color Code*

QH2 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT:

▼ Amber (1) ... UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT? = Plain Language*

QH3 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Page Break

Q11 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for INTERNAL DISASTER (within your facility)?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for INTERNAL DISASTER (within your facility)? = Color Code*

Q12 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for INTERNAL DISASTER (within your facility):

▼ Amber (1) ... UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for INTERNAL DISASTER (within your facility)? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for INTERNAL DISASTER (within your facility)? = Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage)*

Q13 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for INTERNAL DISASTER (within your facility)?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Page Break

QJ1 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for HAZARDOUS MATERIALS event?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for HAZARDOUS MATERIALS event? = Color Code*

QJ2 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for HAZARDOUS MATERIALS event:

▼ Amber (1) ... UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for HAZARDOUS MATERIALS event? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for HAZARDOUS MATERIALS event? = Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage)*

QJ3 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for HAZARDOUS MATERIALS event?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Page Break

QK1 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for MISSING ADULT?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for MISSING ADULT? = Color Code*

QK2 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for MISSING ADULT:

▼ Amber (1) ... UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for MISSING ADULT? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for MISSING ADULT? = Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage)*

QK3 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for MISSING ADULT?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Page Break



QL1 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for SEVERE WEATHER?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for SEVERE WEATHER? = Color Code*

QL2 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for SEVERE WEATHER:

NOTE: For this question, more than one color code may be selected. To select multiple options, hold down the CONTROL key and select all colors that apply.

- ☐ Amber (1)
- ☐ Aqua (2)
- ☐ Beige (3)
- ☐ Black (4)
- ☐ Blue (5)
- ☐ Brown (6)
- ☐ Cyan (7)
- ☐ Gold (8)
- ☐ Gray (9)
- ☐ Green (10)
- ☐ Orange (11)
- ☐ Pink (12)
- ☐ Purple (13)
- ☐ Red (14)
- ☐ Silver (15)
- ☐ Violet (16)
- ☐ White (17)
- ☐ Yellow (18)

☐ OTHER - not listed (19)

☐ UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for SEVERE WEATHER? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for SEVERE WEATHER? = Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage)*

QL3 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for SEVERE WEATHER?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Page Break

QM1 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for MISSING CHILD?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for MISSING CHILD? = Color Code*

QM2 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for MISSING CHILD:

▼ Amber (1) ... UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for MISSING CHILD? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for MISSING CHILD? = Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage)*

QM3 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for MISSING CHILD?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Page Break

QN1 What **code type** does your healthcare facility use for HOSTAGE SITUATION?

- ☐ Color Code (1)
- ☐ Plain Language (2)
- ☐ Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage) (3)
- ☐ None Identified (4)
- ☐ Unsure (5)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for HOSTAGE SITUATION? = Color Code*

QN2 Select your healthcare facility's **color code** for HOSTAGE SITUATION:

▼ Amber (1) ... UNSURE (20)

---

*Display This Question:*

*If What code type does your healthcare facility use for HOSTAGE SITUATION? = Plain Language*

*Or What code type does your healthcare facility use for HOSTAGE SITUATION? = Other (e.g., Code John, Code Triage)*

QN3 What is your healthcare facility's **code** for HOSTAGE SITUATION?

\_\_\_\_\_

End of Block: Specific Emergencies

---

Start of Block: Code Experience

Q9 These final questions focus on your experience with hospital emergency codes.

---

**Q10 Do you know the procedure for activating emergency codes in this medical facility?**

☐ NO (1)

☐ YES (If so, please explain.) (2)

---

-----

**Q11 Would you prefer it if your facility changed to "plain language" emergency codes over color coding systems?**

☐ NO, color codes are better. (1)

☐ YES, I would prefer plain language codes. (If so, why?) (2)

---

☐ NOT APPLICABLE, my facility already utilizes plain language codes. (3)

-----

**Q12 Do you think that there are certain emergency types that should always remain as color codes (i.e., not plain language)?**

☐ NO (Plain language should be used for all codes.) (1)

☐ YES (If so, which specific codes should remain colors?) (2)

---

-----

Page Break

---

**Q13 What type of code-response training do you receive at this facility?**

NOTE: You may select more than one.

- ☐ Training during employee orientation (1)
- ☐ Yearly refresher training (2)
- ☐ Drills and exercises (3)
- ☐ Other (indicate below) (4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

**Q14 Have you worked in medical facilities whose color codes differ from this current facility?**

- ☐ Yes (1)
- ☐ Maybe (2)
- ☐ No (3)
- 

**Q15 Have you ever witnessed code confusion during drills or in actual emergent situations?**

- ☐ Yes (1)
- ☐ No (2)
-


Q16 When was the last time this hospital provided you training on their emergency code system?

- ☐ Within the last month (1)
- ☐ 1-6 months ago (2)
- ☐ 6 months - 1 year ago (3)
- ☐ More than 1 year ago (4)
- 

Q17

Now that you have completed the survey:

**On a scale of 1 to 7 (with 1 being "Not at all confident" and 7 being "Very confident") how confident are you in your own knowledge of the emergency codes at this medical facility?**

	1	2	3	5	6	7
Confidence in Code Knowledge ()						

End of Block: Code Experience

---