

	Department: Respiratory Services	Date Originated: September 1986 Date Reviewed/Revised: February 2014
CLINICAL GUIDELINE	Topic: <u>Critical Care</u> – Cardiac Arrest Team, Respiratory Therapy Number: B-00-12-12006	Related Links:

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APPLICABLE SITES:

St. Paul's Hospital
 Mount Saint Joseph Hospital

NEED TO KNOW:

Respiratory Therapists are active members of the Cardiac Arrest / Code Blue Team, and as such will provide 24 hour coverage and response to all Code Blue calls within Mount Saint Joseph and St. Paul's Hospitals.

GENERAL INFORMATION and GUIDELINES:

ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL:

1. As part of the ICU assignment, each therapist will carry a Code Blue pager (there are 3 pagers assigned to Respiratory Therapy).
2. Only one ICU therapist will respond to any specific cardiac arrest event, while the other ICU therapist(s) will provide coverage to the intensive care unit.
3. If there is only one therapist in ICU when a code is called, they will respond to the code with the rest of the Code Blue Team. The therapist outside the unit carrying the Code Blue pager should immediately return to the ICU to provide coverage for the unit (an exception to this would be if the therapist is with a patient on transport).
4. If the therapist attending the arrest requires additional respiratory assistance, a second therapist may be paged at that time.
5. In the event of multiple Code Blue calls, therapists from other work areas (i.e. CSICU, Wards) will evaluate the workload and assist with providing coverage in ICU if there are no therapists left in the unit. The ICU CNL may page therapists from other work areas if assistance is required.

6. Cardiac arrests which occur in CSICU or PACU will be attended by the therapist assigned to CSICU.

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL:

1. One therapist will carry a Code Blue pager and respond to all cardiac arrest events within the facility.
2. During shifts where there are two therapists on site, the therapist covering ICU will respond to the code, while the second therapist will return to the unit to provide coverage. When there is only one therapist on site, that therapist will respond to the code - no therapist coverage for the unit will be provided during this time.
3. If the therapist attending the arrest requires additional respiratory assistance, support may be available by contacting the Charge Therapist at SPH, depending on the nature of the request. Other support may be available from the ICU nursing staff, again depending on the nature of the request.
4. In the event of multiple Code Blue calls the therapist may hand over respiratory care of the first patient to a qualified team member (i.e. ICU nurse), and respond to the subsequent code call.

BOTH SITES:

1. Students may attend and participate in cardiac arrest response under the direct supervision of the RRT *only*.
2. Code Blue pagers are tested daily in the morning by the switchboard. The therapist carrying the pager is directed to call the switchboard to confirm receipt of the test page.
3. For more information about the Code Blue pagers, refer to [B-00-13-10080](#) Code Blue Team Responsibilities and Response to Cardiac Arrest Calls.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST DUTIES:

- Airway management
 - Set up of airway equipment
 - Assist in maintaining the airway
 - Assist with intubation
 - Perform intubation (refer to [B-00-12-12064](#) Endotracheal Intubation by Respiratory Therapists)
- Ventilation management
 - Perform manual ventilation
 - Provide mechanical ventilation
 - Arterial blood gas procurement
- Assist with CPR and perform chest compressions

- Patient transport
 - Prepare patient for transport
 - Assist with safe transport to another area
- Downloading and printing capnography data following the Code Blue
- Removal of equipment from the area for SPD reprocessing (i.e. laryngoscope handle & blades)
- Other duties as qualified to perform as per team leader request