

Code Blue Team Responsibilities and Response to Cardiac Arrest Calls (SPH – Only)

Related Standards & Resources:

1. [Appendix A](#) - Directives for Response to Cardiac Arrest Calls
2. [Appendix B](#) - Directives for Checking Cardiac Arrest Carts
3. [B-00-07-10060](#) - Cardiac Arrest (Code Blue) Initiating SPH and MSJ
4. [B-00-12-10103](#) – Cardiac Arrest (Code Blue): Resuscitation Bag/Bag-Valve Mask (Ambu bag)
5. [B-00-07-10036](#) - Code Pink – Obstetrical Emergency
6. [B-00-12-12006](#) - Cardiac Arrest Team – Respiratory Therapy
7. [B-00-12-12064](#) - Endotracheal Intubation by Respiratory Therapists
8. [B-00-12-12074](#) - Capnography Monitoring and Data Download

Skill Level: Specialized, ICU Code team

Need to Know:

Code Blue Call-system

On receipt of the signal "CODE BLUE and location" by the electronic cardiac arrest call system the switchboard operator will immediately notify Code Blue Team members on their Code Blue pagers. The pagers have a series of tones and a message is displayed. If you are unsure of the location, contact the operator to ask for the location.

The following personnel carry Code Blue pagers and will be paged simultaneously:

- ICU residents
- Other designated house staff
- Respiratory therapist
- ICU Code Blue team RNs
- Anesthesia resident at nights and weekends

The switchboard operator will then announce the Code Blue call on the overhead paging system as "CODE BLUE and location".

House staff covering the area where the Code Blue is taking place, upon hearing the announcement on the overhead paging system, will proceed immediately to their Unit to provide support and history to the Code Blue team.

Two RNs from the Intensive Care Unit bring the cardiac arrest cart to the location of the Code Blue.

NOTE:

For a Code Blue occurring in the Coronary Intensive Care Unit, **one** RN only, from the Intensive Care Unit will attend.

The ICU nursing staff are members of the Code Blue team. It is the responsibility of each RN to ensure that he/she is familiar with Code Blue procedure. See also, the above related standards.

PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Interventions:

Primary Nurse

- Turns off Code Blue alarm once all arrest team members and equipment are present
- Applies quick-look paddles, operates monitor/defibrillator, applies electrodes
- Defibrillates/cardioverts or assists with same
- Administers medications as ordered by Code Blue team MD
- Prepares equipment and assists with procedures as necessary
- Assists with transfer of patient to the appropriate area
- Code Blue occurring in ICU/SDU and CICU: generally, the RN assigned to the patient assumes the role of primary nurse.

Secondary Nurse

- Ensures cardiac arrest cart plugged in
- Prepares and hands medications to primary nurse
- Records events, medications administered and vital signs on the resuscitation record
- Obtains and mounts ECG strips of all rhythms occurring during arrest
- Prepares equipment and assists with procedures as delegated by the primary nurse
- Ensures that the resuscitation record is completed and signed by the appropriate staff
- Controls the number of personnel at bedside
- For a Code Blue occurring in the CICU: the ICU nurse assumes the role of secondary nurse and performs those duties as delegated by the primary nurse. The ICU nurse remains at the arrest until informed by either the primary nurse or CNL/CN of the area that return to ICU is appropriate.
- Brings arrest cart used during Code Blue to ICU and ensures that used cart is immediately replaced with the exchange cart. Ensures used cardiac arrest cart is cleaned, restocked and checked **except** in CICU, CSICU, CATH Lab, ER and PACU (they restock their own carts). See [Appendix B](#) - "Directives for Checking Cardiac Arrest Carts".

ICU Resident

- Assumes direction of the resuscitation
- Determines diagnosis and orders medications and treatments
- If unable to intubate the patient, the Anesthetist is notified STAT and asked to attend the Code Blue to assist with intubation.
- Following the resuscitation, inpatient's are generally transferred to the ICU or CICU. Outpatients are generally transferred to the ER.
- The resident will arrange and assist with transfer of patients
- Pronounces patient if necessary
- Notifies patient's next of kin, family physician and/or attending physician, and the ICU Intensivist/CCM Fellow

ICU Junior Resident

- Assumes responsibilities of ICU Senior Resident when ICU Senior Resident is not available
- Assists with determining diagnosis, medication and treatment as delegated by the ICU Senior Resident
- Assists with chest compressions
- Assists with transfer of patient

Respiratory Therapist

- Manages patient's airway during Code Blue
- Assists physician with intubation (Respiratory Therapists who have completed and maintained their endotracheal intubation competency may intubate in the circumstances outlined in [B-00-12-12064](#) Endotracheal Intubation by Respiratory Therapists)
- Manages patient's ventilation during Code Blue
- Assists with obtaining arterial blood gas sample(s)
- Assists with chest compressions
- Assists with transfer of patients
- Download capnography data following the Code Blue (refer to [B-00-12-12074](#) Capnography Monitoring and Data Download)

A Code Blue is Called in Non-Arrest Situations When:

- a) Staff require immediate medical assistance managing a patient situation
- b) During a consultation, a patient becomes unstable and immediate assistance and equipment is required
- c) Urgent or emergent intubations outside of the ICU are performed

Simultaneous Arrest Calls

- a) The ICU Junior Resident and ICU Code Blue team RNs will remain with the Code Blue in progress.
- b) The ICU Senior Resident will proceed immediately to the area that has placed the second Code Blue call
- c) The ICU Senior Resident will direct the nursing staff in the area to place STAT calls to the Senior Medical Resident and Junior Medical Resident on call
- d) The ICU Senior Resident will direct the Senior Medical Resident to assist the ICU Junior Resident and the Junior Medical Resident will remain with the ICU Senior Resident. A deviation from this plan is at the discretion of the ICU Senior Resident.
- e) RNs from the ICU will respond immediately to the second Code Blue call and will bring designated cardiac arrest cart.

Code Blue Pediatric

Pediatric is defined as a child less than 12 years of age. The Code Blue button is not activated for a Code Blue Pediatric situation. The Code Blue Team is notified by Switchboard via the overhead paging system and the Code Blue pagers. The adult Cardiac Arrest Cart is **not** taken to a Code Blue Pediatric.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GUIDELINE

B-00-13-10080– Code Blue Team

Procedure

1. One of the Code Blue Team RNs will obtain the Code Blue Pediatric resuscitation bag before leaving ICU. (The bag is located next to the OUT-CART).
2. Upon arrival at the Code Blue Pediatric situation, the Code Blue Team will initiate **BCLS** only and transport the child to the Emergency Department as soon as possible. ACLS is initiated in the Emergency Department.
3. Prior to transport, the Code Blue Team RN will notify the CNL in the Emergency Department. Giving the approximate age of child and the nature of code blue pediatric situation. The Emergency CNL is responsible for notifying all necessary personnel.
4. Documentation: Resuscitation Record- completed as for adult resuscitation.

Neonatal Emergency

A Neonatal emergency called for a child of less than 10 days old, it is called overhead to notify the on call Pediatrician, RT, RN NICU and RN Maternity. The ICU code blue team **does not** attend.

Persons/Groups Consulted:

Nurse Educator PACU
Nurse Educator CSICU
ICU Attending
Professional Practice Leader, Respiratory Therapy
Cardiac Arrest Committee 9th April 2014

Author(s):

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Appendix A**Directives for Response to Code Blue Calls**

Purpose: To outline the location of cardiac arrest carts throughout the hospital and the areas each cart will serve. The Directives are organized according to building - Providence, Burrard and Comox.

General Notes:

There is an elevator control panel in the ICU Nurses' Station. It controls the Providence Wing elevators and the Burrard 5 or 6 & 7 elevators. When activated, the elevators will come to the 3rd floor.

DO NOT CALL AN ELEVATOR FOR Providence:

- 2nd floor Radiology Clinics (CT Scan, MRI, General Radiology)
- 3rd floor Surgical Day Care, Maternity Center, ICU, CICU

Burrard:

- 1st floor Emergency Department
- 2nd floor Burrard
- 3rd floor Burrard

When the Providence and B7 elevators are called, they will remain on the 3rd floor for 3 and 15 minutes respectively, and if not used, will go back into service. The B5 or 6 Elevator, however, must be 'de-activated' by Code Blue Team Members using elevator key in key slot.

When the entire arrest team arrives with the cart to the area calling the Code Blue, the primary nurse will cancel the Code Blue alarm by pushing the cancel button. The computer facilitating collection of valuable response time statistics, automatically registers that time.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GUIDELINE

B-00-13-10080– Code Blue Team

AREA/SERVICE	LOCATION OF CARDIAC ARREST CART	RESPONSE
Providence Building <u>1st floor</u> Morgue, Viewing room, Stores, Receiving, MDR, Printing, Biomedical Engineering, Pharmacy, Biomedical Communications, Library, Meeting Rooms & Lecture Theatre, Linen, Physical Plant, Switchboard.	OUT- CART- ICU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate automatic doors and Providence Elevator. • Leave ICU with the OUT-CART, turn right and take the elevator (DOORS OPEN and "ALARMING"). • Put key in the slot, press CLOSE DOOR and Floor #1. • Follow signs to the area of Code Blue call.
<u>2nd floor</u> Chemistry, Hematology, Microbiology, Blood Bank, Hurlburt Auditorium	OUT-CART-ICU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate automatic doors and Providence Elevator. • Leave ICU with the OUT-CART, turn right and take the elevator (DOORS OPEN and "ALARMING"). • Put key in the slot, press CLOSE DOOR and Floor #2. • Exit elevators, turn left and proceed down hall to area of Code Blue call.
<u>2nd floor</u> Radiology, CT Scan, MRI	Radiology - just outside the vascular catheterization rooms/ & helical CT scanner	<p>DO NOT ACTIVATE AN ELEVATOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave ICU, turn right and take stairs on far side of elevator bank, down to level 2. • Head to back entrance to Radiology (turn left, then right), use swipe card; push plate to open automatic doors to Radiology Department. • Upon entering the department, go to the end of the hall. Turn left and obtain cart. • You will be directed to the area of the arrest by Radiology staff.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GUIDELINE

B-00-13-10080– Code Blue Team

AREA/SERVICE	LOCATION OF CARDIAC ARREST CART	RESPONSE
Providence Building cont'd <u>2nd floor</u> Clinics - GI, ENT, EMG, EEG, ECG, Ophthalmology, Cardiac Echo, Nuclear Med, Ultrasound. Stress Test Lab	OUT-CART-ICU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate automatic doors and Providence elevator, • Press floor #2 and proceed to area of Code Blue call.
<u>3rd floor</u> CSICU, PACU, OR	In CSICU In PACU In OR core	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrests in these areas are not generally called as areas staff covers them, however, if additional assistance were required the Code Blue Team would be notified and would respond.
<u>3rd floor</u> Maternity Centre Surgical Daycare	OUT-CART-ICU OUT-CART-ICU	DO NOT ACTIVATE AN ELEVATOR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate automatic doors. Leave ICU with the OUT-CART, turn right, then left and enter Maternity Center through main doors. • Same as above, except on leaving ICU turn right and proceed down hall to OR/Recovery Area. Go in these doors and immediately turn right for Surgical Day Care.
<u>3rd floor</u> ICU	IN-CART-ICU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an arrest occurs in the unit, one nurse from the Code Blue team will respond and act as secondary nurse.
<u>3rd floor</u> CICU	CICU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One nurse from Code Blue team will go to CICU to assess need for assistance. This will be in the form of acting as secondary Code Blue team nurse.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GUIDELINE

B-00-13-10080– Code Blue Team

AREA/SERVICE	LOCATION OF CARDIAC ARREST CART	RESPONSE
Providence Building cont'd <u>4th floor</u> Roof Garden	OUT-CART-ICU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate automatic doors and Providence elevator. • Leave ICU with OUT-CART, turn right and take elevator. (DOORS OPEN and "ALARMING"). • Put key in the slot, press CLOSE DOOR, and Floor #4. • Leave elevator open doors on left using card reader. Turn left and proceed down walkway to roof garden.
<u>4th floor</u> Cafeteria	OUT-CART-ICU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate automatic doors and Providence elevator and proceed as above to 4th floor. • Leave elevator open doors on left using card reader. Turn right and follow hallway to cafeteria.
<u>5th floor -</u> 5A. Cardiac 5B. Cardiac 5C. CIU Cardiac Short Stay/EPS Lab, Cath Lab I & II 5D. Offices	1) 5 th floor, left around corner as you leave the elevator. Cart is in recessed area against wall. 2) CIU 3) & 4) Cath Lab I & II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 A/B activate automatic doors and Providence elevator and proceed to 5th floor. Go left off elevators and obtain cart. • Note: The 5 A/B staff may have taken cart to bedside to facilitate early defibrillation /cardioversion by medical staff. • Proceed to area of arrest. • 5 C/D turn right as you exit elevator. Carts are kept in the area, if going into Cath Lab put on Code Blue Lead as required.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GUIDELINE

B-00-13-10080– Code Blue Team

AREA/SERVICE	LOCATION OF CARDIAC ARREST CART	RESPONSE
Providence Building Cont'd <u>6th floor -</u> A. Transplant Clinic B. Renal and Urology C. Hemodialysis D. Home Peritoneal Dialysis Hemodialysis Unit	1) 6 th floor, left around corner as you leave the elevator. Cart is in recessed area against wall. 2) Inside 6D (inside Hemodialysis unit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate automatic doors and Providence elevator and proceed to 6th floor. • Turn left off elevator, obtain cart. • Proceed to room marked by red cone. • Activate automatic doors and Providence elevator to 6th floor. • Leave elevator and turn right. Go through metal doors to Renal areas. • Cart is against wall in 6D at end of short hallway. The 6C hallway has several rooms designated for hemodialysis at the end.
<u>7th floor -</u> A. Medicine CTU B. Medicine CTU/ Family Practice	7 th floor, left around corner as you leave elevator. Cart in recessed area against wall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate automatic doors and Providence elevator to 7th floor. • Turn left off elevator, obtain cart from recessed area, and proceed to room.
<u>7th floor -</u> C. Medicine CTU D. Medicine CTU	7 th floor, in the center core between 7C and 7D.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate automatic doors and Providence elevator to 7th floor. • Turn right off elevator, obtain cart from center core, and proceed to room.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GUIDELINE

B-00-13-10080– Code Blue Team

AREA/SERVICE	LOCATION OF CARDIAC ARREST CART	RESPONSE
Providence Building Cont'd <u>8th floor</u> - A. Resp/Medicine B. Respiratory Clinics C. Psychiatry D. Bronchoscopy, Pulmonary Function Lab, Medical Short Stay	8 th floor, left around corner as you leave elevator. Cart in recessed area against wall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate automatic doors and Providence elevator to 8th floor. Turn left off elevator, obtain cart from recessed area, and proceed straight ahead for 8A or B, back beyond elevators for 8 C/D.
<u>9th floor</u> - A. Psychiatry B. Elder Care Ambulatory Services/ Geriatric Day Program/ Geriatric Medical Clinic C & D. Orthopedics, Rehab for Falls & Fractures (RUFF)	9 th floor, left around corner as you leave elevator. Cart in recessed area against wall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate automatic doors and Providence elevator to 9th floor. Turn Right off elevator, obtain cart from area near passenger elevator, and proceed straight right for 9A or B, back for 9 C/D.
<u>10th floor</u> - A. Gen Surgery B. Gen Surgery C. HIV & AIDS Care D. Palliative Care	10 th floor, left around corner as you leave elevator. Cart in recessed area against wall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate automatic doors and Providence elevator to 10th floor. Turn left off elevator, obtain cart from recessed area, and proceed straight ahead for 10A or B, back beyond elevators for 10 C/D.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GUIDELINE

B-00-13-10080– Code Blue Team

AREA/SERVICE	LOCATION OF CARDIAC ARREST CART	RESPONSE
Burrard Building <u>Lower Main</u> Housekeeping HEU Office Security Uniform Room Core 2,3,4 iCapture Centre	3 rd floor, main hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate Burrard 5 or 6 elevator. Leave ICU, turn right and proceed all the way to end of hall and link to Burrard Building on left. Take this hall, all the way to middle. Obtain cart and take B5 or 6 elevator, which will be waiting for you. Put key in slot. Turn clockwise, and push LM. Exit elevator, turn left, then right. As above, exit elevator, turn right, go up and then down the ramp. Follow signs to area of Code Blue call.
<u>1st floor</u> - Emergency Department Medical Records Coffee Shop CT	1 st Floor CT/DTU, just inside doors (NEW 2014) ER 5 Carts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICU Nursing does not attend the Emergency Department. For other 1st floor locations Leave ICU, turn right and proceed all the way down corridor to Burrard Building on left. Go half way down main hallway and take stairs on left down to 1st floor. Turn left down main hall CT/DTU obtain cart and proceed to area of Code Blue call.
<u>2nd floor</u> – Information Management Systems Psychiatry/ Eating Disorders iCapture Research Labs Pastoral Care/Volunteer Resources	2 nd floor, main hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate Burrard 5 or 6 elevator. Leave ICU, turn right, and proceed all the way to the end of the hall and link to the Burrard Building on left. Go half way down main hallway and take stairs on left down to 2nd floor. Turn left obtain cart and proceed to area of Code Blue call.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GUIDELINE

B-00-13-10080– Code Blue Team

AREA	LOCATION OF CARDIAC ARREST CART	RESPONSE
<u>3rd floor</u> - Pre-Admission Clinic Social Work Occupational Therapy Chapel Dept. of Surgery Offices Physiotherapy Outpatient Clinics Vascular Lab Surgical Procedure Room	3 rd floor, main hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave ICU, turn right and proceed all the way to end of hall and link to Burrard Building on left. Take this hall all the way to the middle. Obtain cart and proceed to area of Code Blue call.
<u>4th floor</u> – Eating Disorder Program Administration Offices Staff Exercise Room Department of CVS and Cardiology Interfaith Meditation centre	3 rd floor, main hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above. Obtain cart and take B5 or 6 elevator which will be waiting for you. Put key in slot; turn clockwise, push #4. Proceed to area of Code Blue call.
<u>5th floor</u> – General Internal Med & Rapid Access Specialist Clinic Administration/ Physician Offices Infectious Disease Clinic Institute of Circulatory & Respiratory Health Canadian HIV Trials Network CHEOS	3 rd floor, main hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above. Obtain cart and take B5 or 6 elevator which will be waiting for you. Put key in slot; turn clockwise, push #5. Proceed to area of Code Blue call.
<u>6th floor</u> – Residents Sleep Rooms	3 rd floor, main hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave ICU, turn right and proceed all the way to end of hall and link to Burrard Building on left. Obtain the cart and go back to the B2 elevator (outside the Pre-Admission Clinic - uncontrolled) Go to the 6th floor and turn right.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GUIDELINE

B-00-13-10080– Code Blue Team

AREA/SERVICE	LOCATION OF ARREST CART	RESPONSE
Burrard Building cont'd <u>6th floor con't</u> - BC Center for Excellence HIV/AIDS Center for Health Evaluation & Outcome SPH Information Systems BC Renal Agency Virology Lab	3 rd floor, main hallway 3 rd floor, main hallway	Obtain cart and take B5 or 6 elevator. Put key in slot. Turn clockwise, and push floor #6. Exit elevator, turn left. Proceed to area of Code Blue. Obtain cart and take B4 elevator, uncontrolled (B4 elevator is diagonally across from 3 main cart). Take elevator to 6 th floor.
<u>Rooftop/ Villa</u>	3 rd floor, main hallway	Leave the ICU and turn right, go to the Burrard link. Obtain the cart and go back to the B2 elevator (outside Pre-Admission Clinic- uncontrolled) Take the elevator to the Roof/Villa.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GUIDELINE

B-00-13-10080– Code Blue Team

AREA/SERVICE	LOCATION OF CARDIAC ARREST CART	RESPONSE
Comox Building <u>1st floor</u> - Healthy Heart - Lower Gym	3 rd floor, main hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave the ICU and turn right, go to the Burrard link. Obtain the cart and proceed down the hallway (past B6 elevator). Go around the corner to the left; continue down the hall (proceed through doorways) to the B7 elevator. Using key - direct the elevator to Comox Level 1 Lower gym.
<u>2nd floor</u> - Healthy Heart - Upper Gym	3 rd floor, main hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as above - to the B7 elevator- Direct elevator to Comox Level 2 Upper gym, OR Obtain Burrard 2nd floor cart, turn back towards ICU and take first corridor on right to back entrance of Healthy Heart Upper Gym
<u>2nd floor</u> - Offices	3 rd floor, main hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave the ICU and turn right, go to the Burrard link. Obtain the cart and proceed <u>past</u> B7 elevator. Go down ramp. Offices are at the end of ramp.
<u>4th floor</u> - Diabetes Centre	3 rd floor, main hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate B5 or 6 elevator. Precede as above, from ICU to Burrard 3rd floor, main hallway. Obtain cart and take B5 or 6 elevator. Put key in slot, turn clockwise, push floor #4. Exit elevator, turn right, go along main corridor to RAMP on right. Push cart up ramp (this is HARD WORK, but there will be 2 nurses!) to Diabetes Center or beyond.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GUIDELINE

B-00-13-10080– Code Blue Team

AREA/SERVICE	LOCATION OF CARDIAC ARREST CART	RESPONSE
<p>Comox Building Con't <u>5th floor</u> - Canadian HIV Trials Network Center for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences</p> <p>Offices BC Hospice Palliative Care Assoc.</p>	3 rd floor, main hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate B5 or 6 elevator. Precede as above, from ICU to Burrard 3rd floor, main hallway. Obtain cart and take B5 or 6 elevator. Put key in slot, turn clockwise, push floor #5. Turn left out of elevator, and turn left again, go up ramp. Turn left; proceed through doorway (use swipe card). • Obtain cart and take B5 or 6 elevator. Put key in slot, turn clockwise, push floor #5. Turn left out of elevator, and turn left again, go up ramp. Turn left; proceed through doorway (use swipe card). Turn right and go through doorway (use door control key) along hallway to area of Code Blue.
<p><u>6th floor</u> - Information Systems</p>	3 rd floor, main hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate B5 or 6 elevator. Precede as above, from ICU to Burrard 3rd floor, main hallway. Obtain cart and take B5 or 6 elevator. Put key in slot, turn clockwise, push floor #6. Turn left out of elevator and proceed through doorway (use swipe card). Continue down hallway to Comox building.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GUIDELINE

B-00-13-10080– Code Blue Team

AREA/SERVICE	LOCATION OF CARDIAC ARREST CART	RESPONSE
The rest of the Comox Building	3 rd floor, main hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate B5 or 6 elevator. Precede as above, from ICU to 3rd floor, main hallway. Obtain cart and take B5 or 6 elevator. Put key in slot, turn clockwise, push floor #4. Turn right out of elevator and go along main corridor to RAMP on right. Push cart up ramp. Turn right; continue along hallway until you come to closed door. Proceed through door – now you are in the Comox building. Continue down the hall until you reach the elevator on your left. Go to appropriate floor.
Under Ground Parking Lot	OUT-CART-ICU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take out cart to Visitor/Parkade elevators select appropriate floor (P1 or P2) and proceed to arrest

Appendix B Cardiac Arrest Carts; Directives for Checking

Purpose:

- To ensure that cardiac arrest carts contain those items listed on the Checklist in the stated quantities.
- To ensure that equipment on or in the cart is clean, in good order and functioning appropriately.
- To ensure that medications and supplies with expiry dates will not expire prior to the next scheduled check.

General Information (ICU only):

- RNs assigned to the cardiac arrest team are responsible for the nightly routine checking of the carts (3) located in ICU and the monthly routine checking of the ward arrest carts.
- Following use, bring cardiac arrest cart to ICU for cleaning and restocking. Immediately, take the exchange cart to the area where the Code Blue was called. Ensure cardiac arrest cart is locked and ensure cover is over arrest cart (ward carts only). The ICU ward aide will clean and restock the used cardiac arrest cart and place back in the equipment room. It is the arrest team RNs' responsibility to check the cart as per protocol.

Procedure: Checking All Cardiac Arrest Carts (ICU, CSICU, CICU, PACU, ED, 5C/D, OR)

- The following areas are responsible for checking their own carts following use and routinely
 - ICU – Daily
 - CSICU – Weekly
 - CICU – Q 2 Daily
 - PACU – Twice Weekly
 - ED – Daily
 - 5C/D – Weekly
 - OR – Daily
 - ICU Ward Carts – Monthly
- Utilizing the cardiac arrest cart checklist, systematically tick off each item.
- Ensure the contents of the cardiac arrest cart are functional (i.e., BP cuff, flashlight, pressure bag).
- Check all items with expiry dates to ensure they are current (i.e., drug box, multi-function electrodes, blood collection tubes, IV solutions)
- If succinylcholine kept on cart check expire date. It is written as date and time taken out of the refrigerator. (Good for 30 days out of refrigerator)
- Check monitor/defibrillator to ensure the following:
 - Plugged in and charging
 - Machine discharges when tested at 30 Joules
 - Sufficient EKG print-out paper
 - Extra battery in second drawer. Monthly exchange of extra battery with battery in monitor/defibrillator done (date recorded on battery when it goes into monitor/defibrillator)
 - Monitor cable is intact and untangled

