

# Cardiac Arrest (Code Blue) - Staff Responsibilities

## Cardiology Clinics 1033 Davie Street

### Site Applicability

Davie St Cardiology Clinics

### Practice Level:

Specialized: PHC Heart Centre team members: Cardiologist, Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurse, Cardiology Tech

### Need to Know:

1. **If there are only two responders**, the first responder will do ABCs and put on AED as appropriate. Second responder if higher in medical training (such as RN responding to ECG tech who was first responder) will direct until additional responder such as MD arrives.
2. To transfer the patient from a CASE Treadmill to supine position on the floor or exam bed.
3. First and second responder: gently lower the patient to the floor using the sheet under the patient.  
Third responder: ask clerk to call 9-1-1.
  - Address for 9-1-1- Operator: **2<sup>nd</sup> floor – 1033 Davie St.**
4. Automatic external defibrillators (AED) are available on 1033 Davie and located in the Stress testing area of Room 200 Davie, under the CASE machine.
5. The cardiologist or nurse practitioner on site will notify the patient's family of the code blue event.

### Procedure

#### First Responder

- **Before a cardiac arrest call is initiated**: shout for help from other staff members and ask the clerk to call 9-1-1 (do NOT leave the patient), **quickly** place the patient in supine position.
1. If you have determined that the patient is having a life-threatening event requiring immediate intervention by the paramedics **AND** the patient is a full code, have a delegate call 911.
    - If necessary, transfer patient on to the ground.
    - Initiate chest compressions (do NOT ventilate until the bag-valve-mask/CPR face shield mask arrives).

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**When paramedics arrive:**

Provide report to paramedics/code blue team including;

Signs and symptoms

Allergies

Medications

Past medical history including diagnosis

Lab results including blood glucose

Events leading up to the code (e.g. vital signs, procedures, equipment), how long it has been since the patient collapsed, and how many shocks were delivered.

**After the community arrest event:**

- If the patient is to be transferred to the emergency department, ensure documentation is complete (if applicable).
- The MRP or Cardiologist will notify the next of kin.
- If unsuccessful (i.e. natural death occurs), notify the physician or nurse practitioner to pronounce death and then contact the coroner to arrange transportation of the body (coroner 24-hour number service: 1-855-207-0637). If the deceased person is not a patient, then the police must be called. Do not move the deceased person until permitted by the coroner.
- Close off area, ask the clerical staff to cancel and rebook as many patients as possible and move all remaining patients to adjacent clinic spaces (e.g. move patients from the 200 space to the 211 space and move all stress test and holter monitor appointments to SPH Main Cardiology Lab).
- Ensure all used emergency equipment and other supplies have been sanitized and returned to its appropriate location and/or restocked.
- Safely dispose of sharps and used bag-valve-mask/CPR face shield
- Obtain replacement bag-valve-mask or CPR face shield
- Contact pharmacy for replacement of emergency medications

**Second Responder**

- Bring emergency equipment (e.g. bag-valve-mask, CPR face shield, emergency cart, AED) to the location.
- Assist with transferring patient off of treadmill, if necessary.
- Place cardiac arrest board under patient, if necessary.
- Apply the automatic external defibrillator (AED) as per [B-00-12-10164](#): Heart Centre: Zoll Plus Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) in Outpatient Ambulatory Areas
- Provide ventilations with bag-valve-mask or CPR face shield (2-person CPR)

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**When paramedics arrive**

- Obtain medical and nursing notes and bring to bedside, if appropriate
- If family or other visitors present, assist them to another area (e.g. patient waiting area)
- Notify the most responsible provider that an arrest is in progress
- Assist responders in arrest as required (e.g. getting supplies)

**After the arrest**

- Ensure all used emergency equipment and other supplies have been returned to its appropriate location and restocked
- Safely dispose of sharps and used bag-valve-mask / CPR face mask
- Obtain replacement bag-valve-mask / CPR face mask
- Contact pharmacy for replacement of emergency medications

**Third Responder**

- Assist with transferring patient off of treadmill, if necessary.
- Move patients and visitors away from area
- Document event

**Other Responders**

- Clear area of unnecessary equipment
- Pull curtains around the other patients' stations
- If family or other visitors present, assist them to another area (e.g. patient waiting area)
- Obtain medical and nursing notes and bring to bedside, if appropriate
- Notify most responsible provider that an arrest is in progress
- Assist team in arrest as required (e.g. getting supplies)
- Assume responsibility for the other patients in the room
- Provide reassurance
- Answer telephones, etc.

**Clerk**

- Direct fire fighters, paramedics, and/or police to the code area
- Field telephone calls
- Keep visitors in waiting area, secondary waiting area (211) or inform them of cancellation.

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- Prepare transfer package to go with patient to emergency department

If the patient's relatives or friends approach you:

- Guide them to a private exam room and ask the nurse, physician (or designate) to talk to them
- Do NOT try to explain the situation
- Do NOT call the patient's relatives

### Related Documents and Resources:

1. [B-00-12-10164](#) - Zoll Plus Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) in Heart Centre Outpatient Ambulatory Areas

### Adapted from:

[B-00-13-10147](#) - Hemodialysis: Cardiac Arrest (Code Blue) - Staff Responsibilities in Community Dialysis Units

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