

SUBJECT: Code Blue – Medical Emergency	SECTION: Code Blue
EFFECTIVE: July 2022	REVISED: July 2022 REVIEWED:
LOCATION MAIN MANUAL (ORIGINAL): Emergency Measures	LOCATION SUBSIDIARY MANUALS (PHOTOCOPIES):
APPROVED BY: Administration	

PURPOSE:

To manage medical emergencies affecting any individual(s) onsite.

POLICY:

In the event of a life threatening medical emergency affecting any individual(s) onsite i.e. cardiac arrest, respiratory issue, choking, etc., Code Blue will be called to alert team members and prompt an appropriate response.

PROCEDURE:

Upon discovering a medical emergency, Team Members will:

1. Shout to nearby team members “Code Blue” and as applicable pull call bell and phone Nurse/First Aider.

The Nurse/Manager in charge/First Aider will:

1. Respond to site.
2. Direct a team member to call 911 for an ambulance and notify POA/Responsible Party/Next of Kin.
3. Direct appropriate resuscitation procedures until arrival of paramedics.
 - In the event of a cardiac arrest or other sudden medical emergency for someone other than a resident, remember the basic CPR principles.
 - For residents, confirm DNR order/status to find out if resident requires CPR or not.
4. Continue resuscitation procedures or comfort measures as applicable until arrival of 911.



The Nurse or designate will:

1. Complete transfer forms (as applicable) and give ambulance attendants (paramedics).
2. Notify POA / family member of transfer to hospital.
3. Ensure all resuscitation equipment is replenished and cleaned following the emergency.

All Team Members will:

1. Keep nearby residents and visitors away from the scene and help maintain calm.

MANAGEMENT OF A CHOKING RESIDENT

Residents who experiencing choking will be treated as a medical emergency and a Code Blue emergency response will be initiated.

The Nurse or designate will:

1. Assess the situation to determine if the resident is able to breathe. Look for signs that the resident is suffering from total airway obstruction. These signs include the resident being unable to make any sounds above a wheeze, the face turning blue, and hands clutching the throat in the universal symbol for choking.
2. If the resident is not able to speak, cough, or breathe, or is making high-pitched noise, immediately begin care for choking.
3. A trained nurse/healthcare provider will perform abdominal thrusts to clear airway.
 - If the resident becomes unconscious, call for medical help using 911.
 - If CPR is required as per residents' goals of care, ensure that the resident is lying on a hard surface to enable ease when doing CPR.
 - Continue providing emergency care until EMS arrives on scene.
4. Notify POA/SDM, most responsible physician/Nurse Practitioner, and Director of Care of the incident and actions taken.

Post Choking Incident:

Following a choking event, the nurse or designate will:

- If the resident expels the object, continue to monitor resident's vital signs q shift x48hrs after the choking episode, watching the residents for symptoms of



aspiration pneumonia. Conduct chest assessment Q shift with vital signs checks x48hrs.

- Investigate and report any new complaints of breathing difficulties, pain, new or unusual cough, discomfort.
- Contact the Dietitian via phone/virtual for consultation post incident.
- Identify if any other referrals or consultations may be required, i.e. PT/OT, physician, Speech & Language Pathologist.
- Review and update the residents' plan of care to ensure risks are identified and based on resident individualized care needs.

1. Document incident in the risk management tab of the resident electronic health record.

The PSW will:

1. Immediately report any signs of chewing or swallowing difficulties during snack, meal times, and when consuming any other food or fluids to the nurse.

The Director of Care or designate will:

1. Complete a complete a critical incident report as per provincial health authority requirements for transfers to hospital.
2. Obtain proof of current CPR certification from nursing team upon hire and recertification as per provincial requirements thereafter.
3. Ensure team members received training on Code Blue procedures including how to respond to choking incidents.

