

**HACKETTSTOWN MEDICAL CENTER
PHYSICAL/OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROCEDURE MANUAL
MEDICAL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

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Cross Referenced:

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PURPOSE

To outline management of a medical emergency of a client treated at the Therapy Center.

POLICY

All staff will be able to respond to medical emergencies during all hours of operation. All professional therapy staff will maintain certification in Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider and at least one person with certification will be available whenever there is a patient in the facility.

The procedures outlined will be consistent with hospital and nursing policies regarding code protocols and recommendations of the American Heart Association.

PROCEDURE

If a patient develops signs of distress and is evaluated to be in need of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (based on guidelines of the American Heart Association), the staff member will summon help, calling “**Code Blue**” by dialing **8888**. Additionally, staff will call **911** to summon EMS.

Certified staff will administer basic life support, including use of AED, until the hospital’s code team responds or arrival of EMS. Procedures for the code will follow nursing policy for Code Blue Protocol.

If a staff member determines a patient to be acutely ill but not in cardiac or respiratory arrest, the **Rapid Response Team** will be summoned as per nursing policy. The assessment and interventions by the Rapid Response Team are aimed at preventing an arrest, if possible. The Rapid Response Team is not intended to take the place of immediate consultation with the attending and/or consulting physicians(s), but is intended to help patients in the time window of clinical instability and not to replace physician involvement in that process.

CRITERIA AND MECHANISM FOR CALLING THE RAPID RESPONSE TEAM:

Whenever a patient is noted to have any of the following conditions, the staff member caring for the patient must notify the Rapid Response Team:

- a. Staff member is concerned regarding a change in the patients’ condition.
- b. Acute change in heart rate to less than 50 or greater than 130 bpm
- c. Acute change in systolic blood pressure less than 90mmHg or greater than 200mmHg.
- d. Acute change in respiratory rate to less than 8 or greater than 28 bpm
- e. A SaO₂ less than 90%.
- f. A change in mental status.

The Rapid Response Team is called by dialing **8888**.

Immediately following the mobilization of the Rapid Response Team, the staff will notify the patient’s physician(s) of the patient’s condition change. The hospitalist, in consultation with the attending or consulting physician, will determine if the patient will be transported to the ED for treatment. EMS will be summoned for transportation by calling **911**.