



University of Kentucky / UK HealthCare Policy and Procedure	Policy PH09.03.045
Title/Description: Code-Blue Responsibilities/Training – Pharmacy Residents	
Purpose: To identify training requirements and responsibilities of a resident on Code Blue (emergency patient management situations).	

Related Policies:

PH08.01.030 Code-Blue Participation

1. Purpose

- a. The UKHealthCare utilizes a multidisciplinary team approach to the resuscitation of patients suffering a cardiac or respiratory arrest (Code-Blue). Employees of Pharmacy Services are an integral part of this team and respond to all Code-Blues. The Code-Blue pager is always located in the order entry area of the central pharmacy. A central pharmacy technician will respond with a back-up code tray. The technician assists the pharmacist as requested during the resuscitation. This policy is to guarantee there is pharmacy coverage for all Code-Blues. Whenever possible, however, the "primary pharmacist" for that patient should be involved in the code effort. The resident on-call will carry a Code-Blue pager or the on-call pager that will be activated during a Code-Blue. The on-call resident will respond to Emergency Department Code-Blues as needed. Preceptors will also hold the code pager during pharmacist working hours to assist in codes and training residents.

2. Responsibilities

- a. Pharmacists (staff or resident) responding to Code-Blues are responsible for the following
 1. Preparing and labeling medications for administration.
 2. Verifying doses and administration rates.
 3. Providing drug information and suggestions.
 4. Ordering supplies or a second cart if supplies run low.
 5. Assuming the role of recorder if recorder nurse unavailable.
 6. Reviewing the code record for completeness regarding medication administration.
 7. Signing the official Code-Blue Record.
 8. Facilitating the return of the code tray to central pharmacy for restocking.

3. Training

- a. Prior to attending Code-Blues, all residents must complete Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification. This course consists of approximately 8 hours of instruction and hands-on training. The didactic portion of the course focuses on pharmacology and clinical use of Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) medications, quick calculations, information on compatibilities, etc. Residents also become familiar with defibrillators and commonly used medical supplies. The pharmacy department will also provide the resident with additional mock adult and pediatric code training prior to their first on-call day. The resident should observe and assist in actual Code-Blue situations before assuming responsibility in order to ensure confidence and demonstrate competence.

Persons and Sites Affected

Enterprise Chandler Good Samaritan Kentucky Children's Ambulatory Department

Policies Replaced

Chandler PH20-07 Good Samaritan Kentucky Children's CH Ambulatory KC Other

Effective Date: 5/25/17

Review/Revision Dates: 9/2012, 4/15, 4/30/2015,
5/25/17

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