



University of Kentucky / UK HealthCare Policy and Procedure	Policy # PH08.01.030
Title/Description: Code Blue Participation (formerly Code 500 Participation)	
Purpose: To define the role of the Department of Pharmacy in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation efforts.	

GENERAL: Blue code carts are located in each area of the hospital and ancillary areas. Materials Management maintains these carts throughout the hospital and a limited number of backup medication trays are stored in the Central Pharmacy. The Emergency Department (ED) utilizes a code box that contains the medications necessary to conduct Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) protocols and manage medical emergencies.

PROCEDURE: For Code Blue responses:

Note: In accordance with recommendations by the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) Emergency Preparedness Committee, Code 500 will be renamed to Code Blue throughout the University of Kentucky HealthCare system, effective July 1st, 2007. It will be referred to as such throughout this policy, but many materials throughout the hospital may still refer to a cardiopulmonary resuscitation as a “Code 500”.

A. Code Blue Assignment

A code blue pager should always be carried by a pharmacist. The intent is for the pharmacist with a code pager to respond to the code and guarantee there is a pharmacist present at the code. Code Blue response is the responsibility of the pharmacist on-call, which is staffed by the Emergency Response Pharmacist (ERP) from 0730 to 1600 and passes to the PharmD On Call Resident from 1600 to 0730. Whenever possible, the primary service pharmacist responsible for pharmacy services in that area should assume responsibility for covering the code as soon as possible and practical. If the ERP is involved in an activity that prevents their immediate response to a code (i.e., presenting a lecture), arrangements should be made for the pager to be carried by another pharmacist. No more than 2 pharmacists should attend a code unless absolutely necessary.

Assigned pharmacists should respond to the code situation to ensure timely pharmacy services at the code. However, once the primary responder (service pharmacist, ERP, PharmD On Call Resident) arrives to a code, other assigned pharmacists may assist or return to their previous responsibilities as the situation dictates.

- I. The primary code blue pager will be assigned to an ACLS trained pharmacist. The primary pharmacist responder is responsible for responding to all codes and carrying out the tasks assigned.
- II. Additional code pagers will be located in the Central Pharmacy to be available for pharmacists covering.

a) Pediatric codes will be paged to the adult code pager. At Chandler Hospital, the pediatric satellite pharmacist will also respond.

b) Responsibilities

Pharmacists responding to a Code Blue are responsible for the following:

- Discussion of the ACLS algorithms with the medical team
- Provision, preparation, and labelling of all medications
- Provision of drug information and pharmacologic treatment recommendations
- Calculation of dosages and administration rates
- Administration of medications as requested by the code leader
- Ordering and preparing post-code and/or post-intubation medications as needed
- Facilitate returning any used/opened drug tray(s) to Central Pharmacy with the patient-identified charge sheet.

B. Recording

It is the responsibility of the Rapid Response nurse or eICU nurse to document the events of the Code Blue on the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Record and to obtain signatures of those present on the form.

C. Orientation and Training

Prior to being responsible for Code Blue participation, pharmacists required to respond should undergo training by appropriately trained personnel, in addition to keeping their ACLS certification up to date.

The pharmacist should spend time reviewing the contents of the cart so that he/she is able to quickly pull and prepare needed medications in a code situation.

The pharmacist should observe and assist in actual code situations before assuming responsibility in order to ensure confidence and demonstrate competence.

D. Cart Exchange

Once the code has ended, the pharmacist must return the used drug tray to Central Pharmacy for restocking and charging purposes with the patient-identified charge sheet. Medications are stocked in the top drawer of the cart in a removable plastic tray. The Materials Management technician will replace the cart and bring the used cart(s) to Material Management Department for restocking of the cart. After restocking the cart, Materials Management personnel will call Central Pharmacy to obtain a drug tray, which will be brought to Materials Management and locked in the code cart.

E. Pharmacy Medication Tray Restocking and Exchange

All drugs will be stocked and arranged in an exact manner in the removable plastic trays according to the medication tray chart.

Upon return of a used drug tray to the pharmacy, the following responsibilities will be completed:

- The Central Pharmacist or designee will be responsible for refilling the medication trays and completing the patient charge form.
- The pharmacist must ensure all drug contents are correct and not expired.
- After the tray is checked, the pharmacist will then seal the tray with the appropriate plastic bag and document the expiration date.
- The medication tray chart illustrates the location of each medication and is used for charging, refilling and documentation of expiration dates.
- The red-lined plastic bag signifies the tray is for an adult cart, and the blue-lined plastic bag signifies that the tray is for a pediatric cart.
- A similar process should be followed for the ED code boxes and these will be stored in Central Pharmacy until it is needed as a replacement.

F. Pharmacy Code Cart Stocking and Maintenance

Once the code cart has been sterilized and stocked by Materials Management, the following responsibilities will be completed:

- After the medication tray is placed in the newly stocked code cart, the pharmacist will then seal the cart with a white plastic lock, document the expiration date, and sign off on the checklist.
- It will also be their responsibility to ensure that two new Adult Code Blue Forms have been attached by Materials Management personnel to the cart.
- Completed code carts will be stored in Materials Management to allow an immediate response to a Code Blue.
- The defibrillator on the code cart must be checked to ensure that it is in proper working order and plugged in each shift by the charge nurse on each patient care unit.

G. Special Code Blue Situations

Code Blue situations in which the code pager system is not activated (i.e. Emergency Department, Cardiac Catheterization Lab, etc.) and notification is made directly to a pharmacist or pharmacy technician requires that a pharmacist respond immediately. The remaining Central Pharmacy staff will contact the pharmacist responsible for the area.

	Contact information	Times To Respond
Chandler		
Resident On-Call	330-7400	1600 - 0730
ERP Pharmacist	List on Microsoft Teams	0730 - 1600
ED pharmacist	3-9700	24/7
Good Samaritan		
Operations/Team Pharmacist	Secure Chat Good Sam Code Blue Opt-In Group or 3-8796	24/7

If the appropriate pharmacist is available and responds, the Central Pharmacist will return to the Central Pharmacy as the situation dictates. If there is concern regarding response, please contact designees as appropriate. Primary responders should make arrangements for alternative coverage during times in which they are unable to respond.

In the event that more than one Code Blue is announced concurrently, the pharmacist holding the

Code Blue pager will page either another pharmacist on the team responding as ERP during 0730 to 1600 or Central Pharmacy from 1600 to 0730, who would then be responsible for the second Code Blue coverage.

Persons and Sites Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Enterprise <input type="checkbox"/> Chandler <input type="checkbox"/> Good Samaritan <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Children's <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulatory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department	
Policies Replaced <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chandler PH-02-06 <input type="checkbox"/> Good Samaritan <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Children's CH <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulatory KC <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Effective Date: 4/30/2015	Review/Revision Dates: 12/10, 4/15, 4/30/15, 5/23/19, 7/1/21
Approval by: Laura Means Ebbitt, PharmD, BCCCP Critical Care Pharmacist, UK Healthcare Abby M. Bailey, PharmD, BCCCP Emergency Medicine Pharmacist, UK HealthCare Jessica Tackett, PharmD, BCPS Clinical Pharmacist, Good Samaritan Hospital Ryan Naseman, PharmD, MS, BCPS Senior Director of Pharmacy Services Philip Almeter, PharmD, MHA Enterprise Pharmacy Director	