

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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Subject: UNIFORM STATEWIDE EMERGENCY CALL CODE

Policy No.: A415

Supersedes: January 20, 2016

Review Date: March 24, 2023

Origin Date: January 1, 1982

Revision Date:

PURPOSE:

To enhance the safety of workforce members, patients, and visitors across the enterprise by facilitating appropriate response to specific emergencies through code uniformity. Unanticipated circumstances that can be life-threatening or cause significant harm to workforce members, patients, and visitors requiring immediate attention. This policy applies to all patient care facilities in Department of Health Services.

POLICY:

The following standardized emergency codes shall be used for paging over the public address system and/or other appropriate means of communication at patient care facilities within the Department of Health Services:

- **CODE ASSIST** for urgent medical assistance to outpatients, visitors, and staff
- **CODE BLUE** for adult medical emergency
- **CODE GOLD** for mental health/behavioral response
- **CODE GRAY** for a combative person
- **CODE GREEN** for patient elopement
- **CODE ORANGE** for a hazardous material spill/release
- **CODE PINK** for infant abduction
- **CODE PURPLE** for child abduction
- **CODE RAPID RESPONSE** for urgent medical attention for inpatients
- **CODE RED** for fire
- **CODE SILVER** for a person with a weapon and/or active shooter and/or hostage situation
- **CODE TRIAGE ALERT** for potential disaster
- **CODE TRIAGE EXTERNAL** for external disaster
- **CODE TRIAGE INTERNAL** for internal disaster
- **CODE WHITE** for pediatric medical emergency
- **CODE YELLOW** for bomb threat

Note: Each patient care facility should establish its own response procedures related to the aforementioned standardized emergency codes. The use of a verbal modifier (during announcement) is allowed to enhanced communication and/or understanding, i.e. Code Pink with description of the infant – “Code Pink, female newborn with blue top.”

Additional request for standardized codes shall be reviewed by the Health Services Enterprise Safety Officer Committee.

REFERENCE:

Revised: 1/97, 6/13, 1/16

Reviewed: 5/03, 6/13, 1/16, 3/23

Approved By:

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Hospital Association of Southern California, Health Care Emergency Codes: A Guide for Standardization, Fourth Edition, May 2014. <http://www.hasc.org/hospital-emergency-codes>