



# Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

## DEPARTMENT OF DENTISTRY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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**SUBJECT: Emergency Medical Care of Dental Patients**

**Policy No.: 3.5**  
**Supersedes:**  
**Revision Date: 11/24/09**  
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### **POLICY:**

Should a dental patient have a medical emergency in the Dental Clinic the staff shall evaluate the situation and use the following procedures to appropriately address the problem.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. The dentist treating the patient shall remain with the patient, assess and monitor the patient's condition, and initiate appropriate emergency treatment.
2. The dentist shall direct a person to call x544 for a CODE BLUE (cardiac arrest) or the operator for "Rapid Response" (urgent, but not cardiac arrest). If the patient is less urgent, the dentist shall call the operator for "Medical Triage", obtain a wheelchair from Staging in Central Clinic I, and transport the patient to Comarr Clinic to be evaluated by the physician on call.

The person calling shall:

- a. Identify him/herself and give the exact location
    - \* Dental Clinic, Harriman Building, Room 146
  - b. Describe the type of emergency
    - \* Cardiac arrest, seizure, respiratory distress
  - c. Describe the patient
    - \* Age
    - \* Sex
    - \* Medical Diagnosis
    - \* Current Condition
  - d. Request immediate assistance
3. The dentist shall direct a second person to bring the crash cart to the patient's treatment area. The Dental Clinic crash cart is located in room 4.
  4. The dentist shall assure that the Attending Dentist is notified immediately of the emergency.
  5. The dentist treating the patient shall summarize the problem, assessment and condition of the patient to the medical team and transfer medical care of the patient to the medical team. The dentist shall be responsible for working with the medical team and providing appropriate

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assistance and follow-up of the patient.

6. The Dental Clinic shall provide clerical assistance for the team to log, document, complete lab requests, make telephone calls or other tasks requested.
7. The Chairman of the Department of Dentistry shall be notified of the emergency as soon as possible.
8. The dentist treating the patient shall complete an event notification on the PSN system on the Rancho intranet immediately.