

Policy Title:	CODE ASSIST		
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Originally Issued:	9/18/2009	Update (U)/Revised (R):	9/25/2018
Distribution:	Hospital-Wide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If not Hospital-Wide, Other:	

PURPOSE:

To provide assistance to those individuals in non-clinical areas of the 1st and 2nd Floors, the adjacent patient loading zones, Parking Lots H and I, the MRI, and the Mobile PET/CT whose condition warrants further assessment to determine the safest and most appropriate intervention and location for any necessary treatment.

DEFINITION(S):

Code Assist: (Urgent Medical Assistance to Outpatients, Visitors and Staff.) The team that is available to respond to urgent clinical situations in **non-clinical** areas of the 1st and 2nd Floors, the adjacent patient loading zones, and Parking Lots H and I, the MRI, and the Mobile PET/CT.

Code Blue: (Adult Medical Emergency.) An emergency situation when there is no cardiopulmonary activity present or critically abnormal to support adequate perfusion to organs and tissues leading to hypoxia, tissue necrosis, and cellular death.

Code Gold: (Mental Health/Behavioral Response.) An emergency situation in which a patient's violent or self-destructive behavior jeopardizes the immediate physical safety of a patient, a staff member, or others. This is a mental health response.

Urgent Clinical Situations: Include an individual experiencing dizziness, shortness of breath, inability to ambulate, or a fall.

POLICY:

The Code Assist Team will respond to any urgent clinical situation that occurs in the following areas:

- 1st or 2nd Floors;
- Adjacent patient loading zones near the lobby entrances;
- Parking Lots H and I;
- MRI; and
- Mobile PET/CT.

The Code Assist Team is **NOT** to be called for clinical events that occur on the 3rd, 4th, 5th or 6th Floors of the hospital. For any urgent clinical situations occurring on the streets adjacent to Parking Lots H and I (i.e., bus stops) or beyond those specific areas listed above, staff should immediately call the Hospital Operator to report the situation so that the Hospital Operator may call “911” for response.

Upon arrival, the licensed Code Assist Nurse will assess the patient’s condition and determine whether a Code Blue must be activated, or if an alternative intervention could be implemented. **The Code Assist Team does not replace the Code Blue Team or the Code Gold (Mental Health Response) Team.**

PROCEDURE:

When an individual who requires further assessment to determine safe and appropriate intervention and destination, and is located either on the 1st or 2nd Floors, the adjacent patient loading zones, Parking Lots H and I, the MRI, or the Mobile PET/CT, hospital staff or security personnel are to activate Code Assist by notifying the Hospital Operator at extension 114. The Hospital Operator will then overhead announce “Code Assist” three (3) times.

- A. From 0800-1630 Monday-Friday, the Code Assist Team includes a Registered Nurse from the Ambulatory Care Clinics, a Nursing Attendant from Urgent Care, and a Transportation Team member.
- B. From 1630-0800 Monday-Friday, Weekends and Holidays, the Code Assist Team consists of a Registered Nurse, and a Nursing Attendant from the DEM.
- C. The responsibilities of the Code Assist Team members are as follows:
 1. All responders must be BCLS certified.
 2. The Urgent Care Nursing Attendant will bring a wheelchair to the scene.
- D. Sheriff Department personnel will respond to the scene for the purpose of providing Safety and security to the team members. Sheriff presence is crucial, as it is necessary for the team to approach unidentified individuals and vehicles.
- E. The Registered Nurse assesses the patient. If it is determined the patient’s condition requires a higher level of care, the RN will delegate the next responding team member to call Code Blue or, if behavioral, Code Gold. If it is determined the patient’s condition is stable, the RN will direct the patient to be transported to the appropriate outpatient unit (e.g., Emergency Department, Urgent Care, Outpatient Clinic, Radiology, Lab, designated waiting rooms, etc.).
- F. Upon completion of the Code Assist intervention/response, the Registered Nurse will record the event on the Evaluation of Code Assist Form, and submit to the Urgent Care Supervisor.
- G. After the Code Assist situation is contained, the Registered Nurse will instruct

the staff to clear the Code Assist by notifying the Hospital Operator at extension 114. The Hospital Operator will then announce overhead "All Clear Code Assist" three (3) times.

ATTACHMENTS/FORMS:

Evaluation of Code Assist Form

REFERENCE(S)/AUTHORITY:

None

APPROVED BY:

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