

LIBERTYHEALTH

Jersey City Medical Center
Department of Patient Care Services

POLICY: Rapid Response

Developed by: Patient Care Services

Approved by: _____

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Patient Care Services

Approved by Policy Committee: _____

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Reviewed Date: December 2009

Distribution: Nursing Unit Manual

Purpose:

The Rapid Response Team (RRT) is part of the 100,000 Lives Campaign whose goal is to prevent deaths through early intervention in patients, or employees who are clinically deteriorating within the hospital, or visitors that may develop sudden illness while on the premises.

POLICY:

The Rapid Response Team (RRT) is available 24 hours a day to intervene when a patient, visitor, or employee's clinical status deteriorates. The RRT can be activated by staff, patients, or visitors.

Process:

The Role of the RRT is to respond to changes in patient condition and assist the staff in assessment, stabilization, communication, educational support, equipment preparation and transfer of the patient if needed.

The Rapid Response Team is comprised of physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, and transporters.

Guidelines for activation of team include but are not limited to:

- Intuitive sense that something is wrong
- Decrease in LOC or Acute changes in LOC
- New onset of agitation/restlessness
- Slurred Speech
- Sudden loss of movement or weakness of face, arm or leg
- Acute changes in RR <8 or >28 per min
- Stridor/noisy breathing
- Increase work of breathing
- Sat<90%
- Acute changes in the heart rate <50 or >120 bpm
- Acute changes in systolic BP <90mmHg
- New onset of chest pain
- Seizures
- Significant bleeding
- No improvement in condition despite treatment
- Potential serious medication errors
- Inability to contact or communicate with physician. This does not exclude the attempts to contact the primary physician but can assist in a rapid response to meet the needs of a changing condition of a patient; visitor or employees
- When in doubt, contact RRT

Process for Activation of Team:

- Dial “8” Emergency line
- Ask operator to activate Rapid Response Team and indicate location
- An ER, ACLS certified RN, will respond to first floor rapid response calls. If the patient is identified as an inpatient, a second announcement over head is made activating “Rapid Response Team B”
- Family, patients and visitors can activate Rapid Response anywhere on hospital property by dialing “8” and indicating their location
- When a Rapid Response in-patient meets Severe Sepsis or Septic Shock established criteria, as identified by a critical care nurse and physician, an announcement over head “Activate Sepsis Team” will be initiated. The Critical Care Charge RN is to call the patient care unit Charge RN immediately to discuss bed availability. Critical Care Charge RN will start the triage process with the respective team in order to receive the septic patient. Lactate levels will always be drawn stat and results will be available from lab within 45 minutes from receipt of specimen. Pharmacy will deliver the ordered antibiotics to the patient care unit.

The Rapid Response Team can be activated throughout the hospital for both In-patients and outpatients. This excludes in-patients in the following area(s):

- NICU
- Emergency Department
- Critical Care (except critical care and cardiac step down units)

COMPOSITION OF TEAM:

ADULT:

The adult rapid response team is made up of the following staff:

- Critical Care RN
- Respiratory Therapist
- Transporter
- Assigned Senior Resident & Intern
- Nursing Supervisor

Adult Response Equipment:

- Rapid response form
- Sepsis protocol information packet
- Critical Care RN will pick up Rapid Response Medication Box from pharmacy

DOCUMENTATION:

The Critical Care RN will complete the documentation form.

Reference:

- Chen, et al: The relationship between early emergency team calls and serious adverse events. Critical Care Medicine 2009 37 (1): 148-153
- Rivera, C. Every Minute Counts, Nursing Management 2009; 40(5): 34-48
- Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Protecting 5million lives from Harm. IHI.org 2006

Professional Practice	11/09
Quality & Safety Council	10/09
Critical Care	11/09
Code Blue/Rapid Response Task Force	10/09
Emergency Dept	N/A
Peri-Op	N/A
Maternal Child Health	N/A
Behavioral Health	N/A
Cardiac Cath Lab	N/A
Interventional Radiology	N/A
Med Exec	1/10
Pharmacy/ P&T	N/A