



The Norman Knight Nursing Center
for Clinical & Professional Development

PCAs Quick Reference: The PCAs Role in a Code Blue (under the direction of the RN)

What is a Code Blue?

Any situation when there is an acute change in a patient's condition and more help may be needed to manage the patient's care. The patient's condition may be deteriorating. The patient may be in distress. The patient may be unresponsive. The patient may be having difficulty breathing or may not be breathing at all. The patient may not have a pulse. When in doubt, ALWAYS call **6-3333**.

What you need to know?

Call **6-3333** immediately. Ask the operator for a code blue team. The operator will ask if this is an adult, pediatric or newborn code and for a location. The Code blue number can be found on your orange badge and on the yellow telephone sticker. Please remember that the Code Blue team only responds to telephone activation. It is the telephone operator who sets off the code beeper. The Code Blue team does not respond to Code Buttons located on the wall above the patient's bed.

What is the role of the PCA (under the direction of the RN) in a Code Blue situation?

1. If you find the patient in bed.....check for unresponsiveness (Are you OK? Are you OK?), call for help, lay patient flat
2. If you are one of the first in the room.....help position the patient flat on their back, place a back board underneath the patient and begin compressions. Be prepared to switch.
3. If you are not needed at the bedside....offer to escort family members and roommate out of room and find a comfortable place for them to wait. Arrange for chaplain or social worker to sit with them.
4. If the room is crowded on your arrival.....Stay near the door and obtain equipment (code cart, defibrillator, etc.) and supplies as needed. Label any specimens and send to lab.
5. If you are not needed for the code intervention.....make continuous rounds on all remaining patients until the code is over. Answer call lights, help patient's to the bathroom, report complaints of pain to the RN, try not to get stuck in a patient's room for any length of time since you are now covering the entire floor until the code is over.
6. Participate in staff debriefing post code. Touch base with your leadership or the Employee Assistance Program, if you are feeling emotionally upset by the code events.