



The Norman Knight Nursing Center
for Clinical & Professional Development

PCAs Quick Reference: What is HICS?

HICS stands for Hospital Incident Command System. This is the system we use to manage large scale emergencies and other situations like the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the HICS is to streamline hospital operations and to make decision- making more rapid.

HICS has 5 major areas:

- **Incident Command**- sets objectives, strategies and priorities and has overall responsibility for the incident or emergency
- **Operations**- directs different departments and resources to help guide the response
- **Planning** – tracks resources, thinks about future impact and actions and maintains documentation
- **Logistics**- manages all resources related to the event (facilities, equipment, supplies and systems)
- **Finance/Administration**- monitors costs related to the incident

One of the most important things we can all do during an emergency or other incident is to stay up-to-date on information by visiting Apollo for the latest information needed to remain safe and to communicate with your supervisor when you have questions.

For more information go to:

<https://apollo.massgeneral.org/coronavirus/pcs-resources/>

Click on the Education tab to access the HICS overview.