


COBB COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Policy # 8048	Medical Emergencies	Service Delivery
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Approved:  Foster Norman, Executive Director		

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Cobb County Community Services Board to have a procedure to follow in the event of a medical emergency.

DEFINITIONS:

- **CODE BLUE** is the official alert code announced when a person has a medical emergency.
- **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)** is a basic emergency procedure for life support, consisting of artificial respiration and manual external cardiac massage in compliance with the standards of the American Heart Association or American Red Cross and the regulations adopted by the local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority.
- **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the potentially life threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia in a patient.

PROCEDURE:

In the event of a medical emergency, including but not limited to, respiratory arrest and cardiac arrest, medically trained staff should follow the following steps:

1. Initiate a **CODE BLUE**, followed with the location by making an announcement on the paging system.
2. All trained staff in the surrounding area should respond to the announced location at this time.
3. Assess the situation and try to confirm that the scene is safe prior to proceeding with assistance.
4. Those administering medical aid shall take necessary body substance isolation precautions (gloves, goggles, masks, etc.)
5. Determine the most appropriate course of action for providing the best care to the individual(s) involved, including, but not limited to First Aid and Basic Life Support (CPR) services.
6. Place a telephone call to 911 for Emergency Medical Services immediately if the injury is life threatening. Give nature of emergency, location, number of people involved and what actions are currently being taken to manage the incident.

7. Appoint someone to promptly direct the resources that arrive on the scene.
8. Transfer care to medical professionals, which may include, but is not limited to, emergency transfer to another organization.
9. Document all actions taken on an Incident Report form. At the **BHCC**, staff also documents in the electronic clinical record.
10. Process the Incident Report per established agency policy.

A copy of the *General Steps in Medical Emergencies* is posted at each agency site. (Attachment A)

GENERAL STEPS IN MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

- **Have someone notify 911.**
- **Do not move the injured person except for protection from further injury.**
- **Call out for emergency personnel trained in First Aid.**
- **If immediate action must be taken and no emergency personnel are available, the 911 operator will assist you.**
- **Have someone bring you the departmental First Aid kit and AED, if there is one at the site.**
- **Stay with the victim until the Emergency Medical Services arrive.**
- **Personal safety is your first priority.**
- **Use protective equipment when in contact with the victim's blood or any other bodily fluids.**
- **Complete all incident forms**