

Code Blue

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Program/Dept: Critical Care Services

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A 2006 study by the WRHA Defibrillator Steering Committee to review Code Blue response times in the seven Winnipeg acute care sites in order to assess the needs for defibrillation coverage identified a number of concerns related to the management of Code Blues across the region. The Code Blue project will address these concerns by standardizing Code Blue practices and optimizing response to patients requiring resuscitation in these sites. Specifically the objectives of the project are to:

- Develop a regional Code Blue policy that provides guidance on the criteria for calling a Code Blue, the target populations, geographical boundaries, team composition, guidelines for the use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's), cart contents/maintenance and the management of Code Blue records.
- Develop hospital specific Code Blue policies and procedures, which complement the regional Code Blue policy.
- Develop standards for Code Blue documentation, including a regional Code Blue form, which contains easily retrievable code and AED information.
- Recommend a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process for Code Blues that outlines monitoring guidelines for Code Blues and AED's and which provides relevant information on the outcomes of Code Blue responses.
- Develop an educational plan on implementation of the Code Blue policy, documentation standards, record form, AED's, initial/ongoing AED training, locating remote areas for a code response and use of the elevator overrides.
- Implement the Code Blue policy, documentation standards, record form, AED's and CQI process throughout WRHA acute care sites.
- Evaluate the implementation of the Code Blue policy and AED's.