

**Self Learning Packet
for the
Reorganization of the
Medical Emergency Team
AKA
Working it like a
“PIT CREW”**



Please review information, sign attached sheet and return to your manager.

Pit Crew: works as a well-rehearsed team with assigned roles that do not deviate from job to job

Medical emergency teams: should work like a Pit Crew.

- There has been a reorganization of the medical response team to improve the response and care of patients.
- Starting in February 2007 each responding member of the team will have a specific role to perform.
- The goal is to standardize the response for team members therefore “working it like a Pit Crew”.
- There are 11 roles pre-intubation, 9 roles post-intubation.
- Two roles have been delegated to the medical surgical/telemetry nurses.
- The role of the arrest pager nurse will be to manage the supplies on the cart and work the defibrillator.
- Each team member will be designated a place to stand, therefore during every medical emergency there will be consistency in location and jobs for each member.

This self-learning packet will describe all of the roles but focus on your responsibilities when a patient on your unit requires a medical emergency team response.

If a patient on the unit requires a medical emergency team and suffers an arrest:

Before team arrives

1. Initiate CPR, activate medical response (push blue button, dial 66#)
2. When code cart arrives make sure cart is placed on **the left side of the patient**
3. Place board under patient and continue CPR
4. Place defibrillator pads in correct position on pt
5. Connect pads to defib cable
6. Turn defib on and shock if appropriate

After team arrives your role will be one of following:

A. This is your patient

- give history to team leader
- Stand on one side of the bed to administer IVP medications and manage fluids
- Check vital signs as needed/directed

B. It is not your patient

- One RN will be assigned to document, if you are delegated (or volunteer) for this role, please stand by the right corner at the foot of the bed with the clip board and CPR record sheet. **The room clock will be the official clock for timing of all interventions**

C. It is not your patient and someone else is documenting

- After the team arrives, please leave the room

A summary of the 11 roles

Role 1: Team leader:

- identifies himself/herself
- manages the care of patient, he/she is the only one directing care

Role 2: Surgical resident:

- gains IV access, draws ABG and labs
- back up for intubation and compressions

Roles 3, 4 and 5: (1) senior (2) first year residents:

- performs intubation (2 roles)
- takes over compressions (1 role)

Roles 6 and 7: (2) RT therapist

- immediately takes over mask bag ventilation,
- receives suction and intubation equipment from arrest pager RN
- assists with intubation and manages airway
- assists with compressions

Role 8: Arrest pager nurse:

- makes a quick visual survey assuring the defib pads are in place, the board is under the patient, oxygen is attached to the resuscitation bag
- hands equipment for suction and intubation to RT
- manages cart supplies and defibrillator
- assures a staff RN is documenting
- reviews documentation and completes QA from after the medical emergency is finished

Role 9: Patient's RN

- administer IV medications
- manages fluids
- obtains vital signs when requested

Role 10: Documentation nurse

- documents all interventions on CPR record
- obtain Team Leaders signature
- **uses room clock for timing of all interventions**

Role 11: Pharmacist

- prepares medications
- hands them to the patient's RN
- gives directions on how to give .

Standardization and consistency is the key. After the team arrives, your role will be to manage medications, fluids, vital signs or documentation

Please see attached diagrams for each team member's position

5. When an arrest is called the crash cart should be placed on the left side of the patient because:
- a. The cable for the defibrillator pads can most easily reach the patient and it is the standard placement of the cart for medical emergency teams.
 - b. It is the most convenient placement
 - c. It is the only place it will fit.

Name:

Unit:

Date:

Post test answer key

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4
- 5.