**ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE:** Employee performs within the prescribed limits of the hospitals/departments Ethics and Compliance Program. Is responsible to detect, observe, and report compliance variances to their immediate supervisor, or upward through the chain of command, or the Compliance officer

**PURPOSE:** To provide an appropriate response to a suspected or imminent cardiopulmonary arrest or a medical emergency for an adult or pediatric patient.

**POLICY:** Code Blue/Code White is called for patients who do not have an advance healthcare directive indicating otherwise. May be called by any staff member when a patient’s condition deteriorates suddenly and additional assistance is needed quickly.

1. Code Blue is to be initiated immediately whenever an adult is found in cardiac or respiratory arrest. If a Code Blue is called in an area without a crash cart, the first staff responding to the scene will assist in transferring the patient to ER.
2. Code White is to be initiated immediately whenever an infant or child if found to be in cardiac or respiratory arrest. If a Code White is called in an area without access to pediatric resuscitation supplies, the first staff responding to the scene will assist in transferring the patient to ER.
3. To use the phone system to activate Code Blue/Code White:
   1. Push the “PAGE” button.
   2. On the display screen, push the button under the word “BOTH” twice.
   3. Speak into the receiver, “Code Blue” or “Code White”, and the location where staff are needed. Repeat three times.

**PROCEDURE:** Staff responding to Code Blue/Code White calls will function within their respective scopes of practice and utilize guidelines set by the American Heart Association on Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support. The members perform functions that include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Response
   1. Person discovering an adult/child in cardiopulmonary arrest:
      1. Assesses patient’s airway, breathing, and circulation.
      2. Calls for help.
      3. Initiates CPR.
      4. Does not leave the patient.
   2. First responding Provider:
      1. Assumes the role of Code Blue/Code White team leader.
      2. Initiates direct emergency orders, as appropriate.
      3. May transfer responsibility of team leader to the On-Call Provider.
   3. Charge RN:
      1. Directs Code Blue/Code White until Provider arrives.
      2. Directs and delegates code responsibilities to nursing and other personnel.
2. Training and Education
   1. All direct patient care personnel will re-certify in BCLS annually.
   2. Specialized cardiac life support training (e.g., ACLS) as required.
   3. A program offering an interdisciplinary approach to managing Code Blue/Code White events should provide opportunities for the purpose of enhancing clinical skills.

Training of personnel should follow the guidelines of the American Heart Association on Advanced Cardiac Life Support.