

Section:	Emergency Planning	Number:	13.06
Approved By:	Senior Leadership Team	Date:	February 2026
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SUBJECT:	Code Blue Protocol		Page: 1 of 4

### POLICY

Woodingford Lodge is committed to providing immediate emergency medical response in a manner that:

- Protects life and dignity
- Ensures resident safety
- Uses team members within their scope of practice
- Ensures rapid access to Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Meets all legislative and regulatory requirements

Code Blue responses shall be initiated without delay and supported by clear role accountability, communication, documentation, and post-event review.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a timely, coordinated, and clinically appropriate response to a medical emergency (Code Blue) to protect life, minimize harm, and ensure compliance with the Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 (FLTCA) and Ontario Regulation 246/22 – General.

A Code Blue indicates that an individual's life is in immediate danger and requires urgent medical intervention.

### DEFINITIONS

**Code Blue:** A medical emergency where an individual is unresponsive, not breathing normally, pulseless, or experiencing a life-threatening condition requiring immediate emergency response.

**Individual:** A resident, visitor, or team member experiencing a medical emergency.

**Registered Team Members:** Registered Nurses (RN) or Registered Practical Nurses (RPN) authorized to assess and direct care.

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- First Person on Scene:
  - Confirm that a medical emergency exists

- Call loudly for help
- Activate the nearest emergency call bell
- Remain with the individual until assistance arrives
- Begin basic life-saving measures if trained and within scope – if this is a resident, confirm with the registered team member that they wish to have CPR prior to initiating and that they are not a DNR
- Second Person on Scene:
  - Call 911 immediately
  - Initiate a Code Blue announcement over the PA system: “Code Blue – location, Code Blue – location, Code Blue – location”
  - Either grab the AED yourself or direct another person to do so, if you are assisting **(AEDs are used for visitors & team members only, not residents)**
- Registered Team Member:
  - Go to the emergency location immediately
  - Conduct a rapid clinical assessment
  - Initiate emergency interventions within scope of practice
  - Direct and delegate responsibilities to team members
  - Ensure that IPAC precautions are followed
  - Prepare for EMS arrival
  - Provide a clear and concise clinical handover to EMS
  - Notify POA if Resident is having a Code Blue
- Support Team Members:
  - Follow directions of registered team members
  - Retrieve emergency equipment as directed, Code Blue bins are in each documentation room and at the front office (they have a blue cross on them)
  - Assist with crown control and privacy
  - Ensure hallways and elevators are cleared for EMS
- Leadership:
  - Provide operational support needed
  - Ensure staffing coverage is maintained
  - Participate in post-incident review and debrief with team members

## PROCEDURE

1. Identify medical emergency
2. Activate emergency call bell
3. Call 911 without delay
4. Call Code Blue over the PA system
5. Provide immediate care within scope of practice – only provide CPR to a resident if not a DNR
6. Prepare for EMS transfer
7. Transfer care to paramedics upon arrival

8. Notify Supervisor/Management on Call if not on site
9. Complete incident documentation
10. Conduct team debrief

## **TRANSFER OF CARE**

Upon arrival of EMS:

- Registered team members will provide a structured handover including:
  - Individual identification
  - Relevant medical history
  - Events leading to Code Blue
  - Interventions performed
  - Medication information, if known
- EMS assumes care upon acceptance
- Paramedic transfer destination is documented

## **DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Incident report completed promptly
  - Risk Management & PCC Progress Note for Resident
  - Property Incident Report for Visitor
  - WSIB Form for Team Member
- Details should include:
  - Time of Event
  - Actions Taken
  - Team Members Involved
  - EMS Involvement
  - Outcome

Proper documentation supports compliance with FLTCA, 2021 requirements for incident reporting and quality improvement.

## **POST-INCIDENT DEBRIEF AND SUPPORT**

Following a Code Blue:

- A debrief will be conducted for all team members involved
- Emotional support resources to be offered
- Opportunities for learning and system improvements should be identified
- Any required follow-up education or process improvement will be initiated

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- All team members will receive education on Code Blue procedures upon hire
- Ongoing training will include:
  - Emergency Response
  - Role Clarity
  - Communication Expectations

- Participation will be tracked and documented

## **REFERENCES**

Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021  
Ontario Regulation 246/22  
Occupational Health and Safety Act  
College of Nurses of Ontario Practice Standards