TITLE: BEN TAUB MENTAL HEALTH –CODE GREEN PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for an interdisciplinary behavioral crisis response team; and to provide psychiatric clinical support and security resources for the emergent, safe, and effective management of patients who are harmful to themselves and/or others.

ELABORATION:

The Ben Taub Mental Health Department (BTMH) of Harris County Hospital District (HCHD) maintains a rapid response team of individuals with psychiatric expertise, crisis intervention skills, and behavioral management training to assist in the clinical management of agitated and/or aggressive patients who are imminently harmful to themselves and/or others. “Code Green” will be used to activate the use of the BTMH psychiatric emergency response team (PERT).

POLICY ELABORATION:

The utilization of the BTMH PERT is intended for the therapeutic management of patients ONLY. Security Stat and/or 911 should be used for situations involving non-patient related threats of violence and/or any criminal activity.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS - PERT:

A. The BTMH PERT will be determined by Ben Taub General Hospital (BTGH) Administration based on staffing resources and individual needs. The PERT may be composed of, but not limited to, the following responders:

1. Physician assigned to the patient’s primary medical service;
2. Patient’s primary nurse;
3. Nursing Supervisor;
4. Area Charge Nurse;
5. Patient’s assigned unlicensed staff member;
6. DPS Officer(s);
7. Nurse from Emergency Center Psychiatric Services;
8. Nurse from Inpatient Mental Emergency Center Psychiatric Services;
9. Psychiatric Technician from Emergency Psychiatric Services;
10. Psychiatric Technician from Inpatient Mental Health Services;
11. Physician from Psychiatric Services; or
B. All PERT team members, according to his or her scope, must have:

1. Satori Alternatives for Managing Aggressive Behavior (SAMA) certifications;
   and
2. Restraint and seclusion hospital based training. (See HCHD Restraint and
   Seclusion policy).

E. When a “Code Green” is paged as BTGH, BTMH PERT medical and nursing
   personnel shall respond as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BTGH</th>
<th>Medical Staff</th>
<th>Nursing Staff</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BTMH</td>
<td>Inpatient Psychiatrist or EC Psychiatrist</td>
<td>Assigned RN and Psych Tech EC Psych RN and Psych Tech House Supervisor</td>
<td>DPS Officers</td>
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<td>EC</td>
<td>Assigned EM providers and EM faculty EC Psychiatrist</td>
<td>Assigned RN and Psych Tech EC Psych RN and Psych Tech Unit Nurse Manager on duty House Supervisor</td>
<td>DPS Officers</td>
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<td>Inpatient units</td>
<td>Assigned Physician Consult liaison Psychiatrist or EC psychiatrist</td>
<td>Assigned RN and Psych Tech EC Psych RN and Psych Tech BTMH Inpatient RN and Psych Tech House Supervisor</td>
<td>DPS Officers</td>
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II. PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. All Healthcare Professionals shall:

1. In the event a patient becomes harmful to themselves or others or becomes
   physically threatening to themselves or others and is imminently aggressive/ violent,
   a BTGH staff member pushes the “Code Green ” panic alarm button in the
   patient’s care area, which will activate the “Code Green ”signal and automatically
   notify the page operator and DPS;

2. Confirm the overhead page within three (3) minutes of pushing the panic button
   and call the operator, if overhead page is not heard;
3. If the emergency event occurs outside of the patient care area, e.g., hallway or cafeteria or if the automatic code button activation system is not available or temporarily inactivated, call the page operator and communicate the location of the code; and
4. Utilize a one number dialing system to activate a Code Green-Code Line: 37800.

B. Page Operator will:

1. Receive notification of a “Code Green” from the healthcare professional;
2. Announce the “Code Green” via public address system immediately;
3. Text page the PERT; and
4. Within three (3) minutes of notification of the Code Green, call the unit where the “Code Green” is initiated to verify the arrival of the PERT.

C. Code Team Leader/ Charge/ Unit Nurse/ or Designee will:

1. Delegate personnel to secure area by removing furniture, equipment, other patients, and visitors as appropriate for safety and patient’s privacy
2. Contact the physician for emergency medications, restraint, and or seclusion orders as indicate;
3. Evaluate the need for additional personnel;
4. Respond with emergency restraints and directs the application per hospital policy; (See HCHD Restraint and Seclusion Policy);
5. Assist and directs application of restraints as necessary;
6. Administer emergency medications as ordered;
7. Monitor the patient’s physical status and provide feedback as indicated during physical hold and restraint application and or placement in seclusion;
8. Complete the medical record, as appropriate, including medication administration, restraint/ seclusion assessment and monitoring per hospital policy. (See HCHD Restraint and Seclusion Policy);
9. Notify Nurse Manager/ Director of any issues/ concerns observed during Code Green activities;
10. Review and complete the medical record, as appropriate, (e.g., restraint order, face to face assessment, medication, EDO if indicated); and
11. Evaluate effectiveness of the physical intervention.
D. Security:

1. BTGH and BTMH Unit will assist in managing the patient using SAMA techniques; and
2. Neuropsychiatric Center (NPC) HCHD Security Officers will:
   a. Lock down the elevator for the PERT to respond to the second (2nd) floor south side (Baylor College of Medicine side), and fourth 4th floor;
   b. Direct the PERT to the location of “Code Green” in NPC building; and
   c. Assist in managing the patient using SAMA techniques.

E. Nursing Supervisors will:

1. Maintain traffic control;
2. Notify Nurse Manager/Director of any issues/concerns observed during Code Green activities; and
3. Evaluate the need for additional personnel.
REFERENCES/ BIBLIOGRAPHY:

HCHD Policy and Procedures 3001 Abuse/ Exploitation of Patients.

HCHD Policy and Procedures 4150 Patient’s Rights.


HCHD Policy and Procedures 7.02 Restraint and Seclusion.

HCHD Nursing Policy and Procedures 464 Suicide/ Homicide/ Elopement Precaution.

HCHD Nursing Policy and Procedures 261 Patient Safety Assistant.


HCHD Nursing Policy and Procedures 227 Chain of Command, Nursing Physician.

ATTACHMENTS:

ADDENDUM A

ADDENDUM B

ADDENDUM C

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

Harris County Hospital District Department of Psychiatric Services
## REVISION HISTORY:

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<tr>
<th>Effective Date</th>
<th>Version # (If Applicable)</th>
<th>Review or Revision Date (Indicate Reviewed or Revised)</th>
<th>Reviewed or Approved by: (Directors, Committees, Managers, and Stakeholders etc.)</th>
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<td>HCHD Psychiatry Services Committee</td>
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