Policy and Procedure
Recognition and Management of Medical Emergencies

Responsible Party: VP of Dental Affairs

Purpose: To establish standard protocol regarding the management of medical emergency situations within the Dental Clinic. It also provides pertinent information concerning initiation of a “Code Blue.”

Policy:

1. All personnel working in the dental clinic will be trained in the recognition of medical emergencies, as well as the location of the emergency kit and oxygen.

2. The attending dentists will ensure that proper measures are promptly instituted for the care of patients undergoing unusual systemic reactions while in the dental clinic.

3. The integrity of the emergency kit will be assessed weekly by the staff dentist. The CHC Pharmacy inspects the emergency kit monthly to assure currency of medication. Any individual using the kit will insure items used are replaced immediately.

4. The senior dental assistant will measure and record weekly the amount of oxygen in the portable tank. Oxygen supplies (mask, tubing, etc.) should be checked as well.

5. The staff dentist will arrange periodic “Code Blue” exercises and conduct annual protocol briefings.

6. “Code Blue” support will be provided by calling 911.

Protocol:

1. In all office emergencies
   a) Place patient in a supine, head-down position (unless contraindicated).
   b) Make certain patient has a patent airway.
   c) Administer oxygen (except in hyperventilation).
   d) If patent does not respond quickly
      1) Assistant initiates code blue procedures.
      2) Dentist support respiration and circulation.
2. “Code Blue” procedures
   a) First dentist on scene attends to patient.
   b) Assistant has someone call 911.
   c) Assistant obtains the emergency kit.
   d) Person calling:
      1) Gives name, code blue status, and location
      2) Arrange and escort at the clinic’s entrance to guide the emergency team.
   e) A record as designated by the dentist will record administrated treatment and medications to include:
      1) Time and onset of code blue.
      2) If and when CPR was started.
      3) Medications – type and dosage
      4) Vital signs
   f) Additional personnel will be used as directed by the attending dentist.
   g) Once the emergency team arrives, personnel will be relieved at the discretion of the team chief.

Approved: ________________________________

Date Initiated: ____________________________

Date Reviewed/Revised: ____________________

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