

SECTION: NURSING

POLICY # 441 MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

POLICY: Central Valley Health District may need to respond to medical emergencies for clients who present at the CVHD main office in Stutsman and Logan Counties, HMC (Health maintenance clinics) and home visits (HV). Medical emergencies may include cardiac arrest, shock, seizure, respiratory difficulties, anaphylactic shock or vasovagal reaction (fainting).

PROCEDURE:

1. All staff should be trained on how to deal with medical emergencies. Yearly BLS (basic life support) training will be conducted on site for staff. Staff will be certified for a 2 year time period with annual reviews being conducted.
2. Medical emergencies will vary depending on the situation. Staff may encounter medical emergencies at the CVHD main offices, HMC and HV.
 - a. CVHD Main Offices: Upon discovery of a medical emergency. Staff will announce over the intercom system 3 times: CODE BLUE and the location of the emergency. Nursing staff available in the building will respond to the scene of the emergency. Staff will activate the EMS (emergency medical system) by calling 911 as directed by nursing staff.
 - b. HMC/HV – nursing staff may respond to medical emergencies at a client’s home or in the community setting at a designated HMC’s. Nursing staff will assess the emergency situation. Nursing staff should activate the EMS by calling for help and requesting 911 be called. Nursing staff should also be familiar if community facilities have AED equipment available on site and know where it is located.
3. CVHD office is equipped with the following items to use in a medical emergency:
 - a. Oxygen
 - b. AED
 - c. Emergency medical medications. Standing orders are in place for use of the following emergency medications. (see attached sheet for medication use and dose)
 - i. Benadryl
 - ii. Adrenalin Chloride
4. Emergency supplies will be checked by the director of nursing or designee monthly. Outdated medications will be replaced.
5. Items such as AED pads and oxygen masks must be replaced following use. It is the responsibility of the nurse to notify the DON if replacement of items is needed.
6. Staff will use universal precautions when dealing with clients in an emergency situation.
7. Event will be documented appropriately.