

<b>DATE:</b>	DECEMBER 1, 2022
<b>NUMBER:</b>	M.6
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES: CODE BLUE
<b>RELATED SECTIONS:</b>	<a href="#">M.5</a> , M.47, <a href="#">MSD.C.2</a> , SDCSD P&P 6.128

## PURPOSE

To provide procedures when responding to a life threatening “code blue” medical emergency for incarcerated individuals, staff, and visitors within the detention facilities.

## POLICY

Any life-threatening medical emergency shall trigger a 911 request for a paramedic emergency response team. Sworn and health staff shall initiate emergency response and basic lifesaving measures until relieved by the paramedic emergency response team.

## PROCEDURE

### I. CODE BLUE

- A. Code blue is generally used to indicate the need for resuscitation or immediate lifesaving medical attention. This includes, but is not limited to cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, and trauma emergencies.
  
- B. Sworn Staff responding to a code blue shall:
  1. Assess the victim's condition.
  2. Without leaving the victim, immediately call for help via radio or any other means of communication to notify health staff and/or request the activation of emergency medical services (911). Provide the location, victim status (e.g., breathing, pulse) and nature of any injury if known.
  3. If opioid overdose is suspected, initiate naloxone administration as outlined in Detentions Policy and Procedure Section M.47 – Suspected Opioid Overdose.
  4. Start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as needed using a barrier device (e.g., PAM mask, pocket mask). Additional resuscitative equipment will be provided by health staff. Health staff will determine the appropriateness of utilizing additional emergency equipment including, but not limited to, the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). In circumstances, or locations, where response time from health staff may be delayed (e.g., the public visit lobby), a deputy may determine the appropriateness of utilizing additional medical equipment such as the AED.

5. Switch to two-person CPR if additional help has arrived after the above notifications have been made. Continue CPR until relieved by health staff or the paramedic emergency response team.
  6. Provide the watch commander with a brief description of the incident.
- C. Health Staff responding to a code blue shall:
1. Respond to the scene with the appropriate emergency equipment.
  2. Assess the situation immediately.
  3. Manage the emergency response and monitor the victim's status continuously.
  4. Delegate as necessary. In addition to sworn staff, any health staff, including a medical doctor (MD), registered nurse practitioner (RNP), registered nurse (RN) or licensed vocational nurse (LVN) has the authority to call 911 or other medical transport for any medical condition they deem necessary. If health staff calls 911, notification shall be made to the watch commander or designee.
  5. Document the sequence of events.
  6. If there is a MD or mid-level provider (e.g., RNP) in the facility, they shall be called to the scene.
  7. When the paramedic emergency response team arrives, health staff will provide information regarding the scene, emergency medical care provided to the incarcerated person and any medical history obtained. Health staff will relinquish care to the paramedic emergency response team.

NOTE: The paramedic emergency response team is required by law to transport to the nearest acute care emergency department.