LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER - SHREVEPORT

CRASH CARTS

Purpose:
To insure availability of all drugs, equipment, and supplies necessary to initiate advanced life-support measures and insure uniformity of emergency carts throughout the medical center.

Policy:

1. Crash carts shall be provided on an “exchange basis” by Central Medical Supply (CMS) to all patient care areas to initiate emergency life-support measures.

2. Designated licensed personnel in the patient care area shall be responsible for:
   a. Notifying CMS after crash cart has been used or lock has been broken.
   b. Verifying contents of new crash cart with CMS personnel.
   c. Co-signing central medical supply crash cart log.
   d. Checking external contents of cart.

3. Central Medical Supply shall be responsible for:
   a. Delivering a restocked crash cart to the patient care area immediately upon notification of need.
   b. Verifying contents of cart with licensed personnel in patient care area.
   c. Co-signing central medical supply crash cart log noting number and expiration date.
   d. Placing numbered lock on cart and writing earliest expiration date on lock.
   e. Verifying the presence and expiration date of all items on carts at least every three (3) months.
   f. Returning medication drawer and its contents to the pharmacy if expiration date is exceeded or seal is broken.

4. Pharmacy shall be responsible for maintaining the red drug drawer on all crash carts. The earliest expiration date of any medication shall be documented on the front lid of the drawer.

5. The fourth drawer of each adult crash cart (BLUE) shall only contain supplies and equipment to initiate pediatric life-support
measures. Upon initiation of pediatric life-support measures, Central Medical Supply shall be notified to deliver a pediatric crash cart (RED) to the patient care area.

6. All crash carts will be checked as per the following:

   a. The defibrillator and cardiac monitor shall be checked and appropriately documented for performance on both battery and electrical current once every 24 hours except when the unit is closed.

   b. The defibrillator will remain plugged into an electrical outlet at all times, except during battery testing.

   c. The Biomedical Department will be contacted immediately when a defibrillator problem is detected.

   d. All external contents of cart shall be checked and verification documented once every 24 hours except when the unit is closed. Document when unit/department is closed on the crash cart log.

7. Crash carts shall be kept locked at all times when not in use. A Variance Report shall be completed after any unauthorized entry into the cart or when routine supplies are missing from the cart. Central Medical Supply shall be notified so that the cart may be exchanged.

8. Request for change in crash cart contents, shall be reviewed by the Special Care Committee.

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Administrator

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Date

Clinical Board Approved: 11/21/00, 3/19/02, 7/15/03
Written: 4/84
Revised: 9/96, 2/99, 2/02, 5/03