NOTIFICATION OF FAMILY FOR EMERGENCY CARE AND/OR DEATH

Purpose:

To insure appropriate and timely notification of family members of patient’s arrival to LSUHSC-S for emergency care, acute change of medical condition and/or death of patient.

Policy:

1. On the arrival of patients to LSUHSC-S who are unable to notify family of their medical condition such as in massive trauma, cardiac arrest, change in medical condition the unit charge nurse will be responsible for initiating efforts to contact family.

2. Upon the pronouncement of a patient’s death, the physician will notify the family immediately. Notification shall be documented in the physician progress notes of the medical record, and will include who was notified and at what time notification occurred.

3. In cases of emergency or acute/critical change in the patient’s condition, the primary nurse or designee, will make all reasonable efforts to locate family by using all available resources, i.e.: Invision, patient’s wallet or personal identification. If unable to locate family notify the charge nurse and Administrative House Manager. The AHM may request UPD to contact local law enforcement agencies to assist with location and notification of family members.

4. The charge nurse or designee is responsible to provide to the physician the contact information so that the physician may talk to family either on the phone or in person. The individual contacting family should emphasize only that there is a change in the patient’s condition and location, if appropriate or that they have arrived at LSUHSC-S. All family contact must be documented in the medical record.

5. UPD shall be notified of the death or change of medical condition of a prisoner patient. They are responsible for notifying the appropriate law enforcement agency that has custody of the prisoner.
6. The deceased patient’s medical record shall be completed and sent to the Admitting Office within two hours of pronouncement of death.

7. Admitting will verify family member notification is documented in the progress note. If such is not present, Admitting will contact the physician and request completion of the documentation.

8. If the physician has failed to notify the family with appropriate documentation noted in the medical record within two hours, Admitting will contact the Hospital Administrator/Administrator on Call.

9. The Administrator/designee will contact the physician or Department Chairman to ensure that every effort has been made to contact the family.

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Administrator

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Date

5/20/09

Approved by Clinical Board: 4/16/02, 6/21/05, 3/21/06, 5/19/09
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