

Emergency Response Procedures

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1. Introduction

- Emergency response procedures are rapid, coordinated actions taken when a patient's condition or facility safety is at immediate risk.
- Speed and teamwork are critical to saving lives.

2. Recognising Emergencies

- Signs include cardiac arrest, severe bleeding, breathing difficulty, or collapse.
- Early warning scores help detect deterioration before crisis.
- Fire, security, and chemical incidents also require emergency protocols.

3. Core Actions

- **ABCDE approach:** assess Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Disability, and Exposure in order.
- Call for help and activate the emergency or crash team.
- Begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use a defibrillator when indicated.

4. Roles and Equipment

- Defined team roles ensure clear leadership and task allocation.
- Crash carts, oxygen, and emergency drugs must be checked and ready.
- Effective communication, such as closed-loop orders, prevents errors.

5. After the Event

- Stabilise and transfer the patient to appropriate ongoing care.
- Document actions accurately and debrief the team.
- Review and audit responses to improve future preparedness.