



Code Purple - Hostage Taking

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CODE PURPLE

Hostage Taking

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INTRODUCTION

A **Code Purple** (hostage taking) is initiated to support an immediate response where a hostage is taken.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL STAFF

- **Do not enter area where situation is unfolding.**

It is the responsibility of all staff to:

- Upon hearing **Code Purple** announcement, at any time, return to your department, if safe to do so.
- Remain calm and avoid any aggressive behaviour in order to reduce the level of agitation.
- Remain alert for opportunities to ensure safety of all occupants.
- Account for staff and patients and wait for further instructions (i.e.: Code Green).
- Prevent unauthorized people from entering the area/building.
- All participants must sign the Emergency Code Participation Record for any Code (drill or actual).
- Participate in the debriefing session as required.

CODE PURPLE PROCEDURE

- Notify switchboard to announce a **Code Purple** over the PA system.
- Call 9-1-1.
- Secure the area by instructing all visitors, patients/residents and others to leave the area immediately.
- Remove all stimulus (music, air handlers, monitors, wifi, etc.).
- Communicate all pertinent information to the appropriate personnel.
- Debriefing session will be held following the completion of **Code Purple**.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

SWITCHBOARD

- When notified of a **CODE PURPLE** situation, announce the following over the PA system:

Attention please, attention please

Code Purple – general area

Code Purple – general area

Code Purple – general area

Example:

Attention please, attention please

Code Purple – LTC

Code Purple – LTC

Code Purple – LTC

- When directed by the Incident Manager, announce the following over the PA system:

Attention please, attention please

Code Purple all clear

Code Purple all clear

Code Purple all clear

INCIDENT MANAGER (Charge Nurse, Admin on Call or Assigned Delegate)

The most appropriate staff member available will assume the role of **Incident Manager**.

- Immediately evacuate patients/visitors/personnel from area of danger, if safe to do so.
- Call 9-1-1- immediately and request the OPP.
- The Code Purple Leader is to contact administration on-call (i.e.: initiate the IMS as required).
- Provide leadership through direction and guidance to staff during Code Purple.
- Facilitate a debriefing session to evaluate the incident.
- Complete a formal [Codes Evaluation Form](#) and forward to the Manager of Support Services (administration).