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Considerations in Planning Code Call Implementation in Health Care Facilities





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Considerations in Planning Code Call Implementation in Health Care Facilities

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Introduction

Code calls (a.k.a. Code Blue, Code Pink, emergency resuscitation, or Code Call in general) are considered to be the highest priority nurse call alarm events in a health care facility. They are initiated when a patient is in urgent and immediate need of specialized care and are associated with emergencies such as a patient's heart stopping, a patient not breathing, the occurrence of severe bleeding, and more. For these types of emergencies, response time is critical and of absolute priority. State-of-the-art Nurse Call systems (a.k.a. Code Call systems) have a variety of ways to support Code Blue protocol.

This document is intended to assist facility developers and owners in designing a code call system and associated call handling processes, with the purposes of optimizing response time and complying with regulatory requirements.

Scope

Health care facilities are highly complex and highly regulated organizations. When designing a code call system and the associated call handling processes, the following minimum considerations need to be addressed:

- Regulatory Requirements
 - Clinical requirements
 - Code call system requirements
- Areas to be covered and responsibilities of the code response teams
- Code response team personnel
- Code call protocol including:
 - Call initiation
 - Call notification
 - Expected response time
 - Code response procedures
 - Code response team responsibilities
 - Supporting staff responsibilities
 - Call completion and termination
- Training
- Code call system maintenance
- Code events recording, records retention, and reporting requirements
- Other related concerns

Regulatory Requirements

There are two categories of regulations that apply to code call implementation. The first is in the form of clinical regulations that prescribe the protocol and procedures for code events handling (i.e., the interventions and actions required of the health care delivery organization and staff responsible for patient care). These regulations might also prescribe staffing requirements, training, or events reporting, for example. It is the administrative duty of each responsible organization to determine, address, and comply with the requirements that are set forth in this category of regulations.