

**CH & HS / Emergency Department**

**Standard Operating Procedure**

**Emergency Medicine Specialist on call – Criteria for Calling**

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| **Purpose** |

To describe the criteria for which it is mandatory to contact the Emergency Medicine Specialist on call.

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| **Scope** |

This SOP applies to Canberra Hospital Emergency Department:

* Medical Officers
* Nurses

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| **Procedure** |

The following are situations where it is mandatory to contact the ED consultant on call:

1. All triage category 1 patients
2. All trauma codes, including code activation based on pre-hospital information
3. Prior to any endotracheal intubation requiring induction medications
4. Patients requiring resuscitation (ACLS, invasive ventilation, or inotropic support) in the ED
5. Patients where there is a delay in transport to the Intensive Care Unit
6. Unexpected death or withdrawal of life support in the ED
7. Situations that require consideration of ambulance diversion
8. Any Disaster Plan Stand – by or activation
9. Any child where non-invasive ventilation is commenced, or being considered
10. Any individual case or situation where medical or nursing staff, in consultation, have a concern - clinical, patient flow, or administrative

In general, contact should be made by the registrar on duty, or by a senior nurse (preferably the Nurse Coordinator – NC), after discussion with the registrar. Staff should make it clear to the consultant if they feel their attendance is necessary.

An Emergency Medicine Specialist is on call at all times, and must be contacted at the time that any of the above occurs, rather than in the morning. The overnight Emergency Medicine Specialist provides cover up until 0600hrs; the day Emergency Medicine Specialist is to be called for the above situations from 0600hrs onward.

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| **Evaluation** |

Outcome Measures

* Weekly Riskman review

**Method**

Compliance with this SOP will be monitored by:

* Communication at fortnightly medical QA department meetings if issues arise

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| **Related Legislation, Policies and Standards** |

Scope of Practice for Nurses and Midwives Policy

Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Policy Document, Australasian Triage Scale

Fatigue Management Policy

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| **Definition of Terms** |

ED Emergency Department

CNC Clinical Nurse Consultant

ACLS Advanced Cardiac Life Support

NC Nurse Coordinator

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| **References** |

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