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| <b>ALASKA PIONEER HOME</b>                  |                               | <b>P&amp;P No: 06.06</b> |
| <b>Title: Resident Health Emergency</b>     |                               | <b>Approval: D. COTE</b> |
| <b>Key Words: First Aid, Code, Response</b> |                               |                          |
| <b>Team: Nursing</b>                        | <b>Effective Date: 8/1/12</b> | <b>Page: 1 of 3</b>      |

**PURPOSE**

To describe the procedure for providing emergency assistance during resident health emergencies at the Alaska Pioneer Homes (AKPH).

**POLICY**

AKPH nurses assist residents during health emergencies by providing first aid, CPR, and the conscious choking maneuver while the paramedics are summoned to provide advanced first aid and hospital transport.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Health emergency** is an unusual, unpredictable, and abrupt injury or illness that is acute and poses an immediate risk to a person’s life or long term health.

**Conscious choking maneuver** (Heimlich Maneuver) is done to dislodge a mechanical obstruction of the flow of air into the lungs.

**PROCEDURE**

**I. Emergency Situations**

- A. If a resident experiences a risk of harm to self or others, the Home:
  1. Accesses emergency services if needed and provides the emergency care that a reasonable, prudent person would provide under the circumstances.
  2. Notifies the resident’s physician and representative.
  3. Records the date, time, and circumstances of the incident in the resident’s file and daily log kept by the Home.
  4. Provides a copy of the report to the licensing agency.
  5. For residents on Medicaid waiver, file a report with Senior and Disability Services (SDS). Use form provided by SDS.
  
- B. Emergency situations include:
  1. Health emergency.
  2. Serious injury.
  3. Accident.

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4. Assaultive behavior that could injure self or others.
  5. Incidents that require police intervention.
  6. Absence from the Home without prior notice.
- C. When an AKPH employee discovers a resident health emergency
1. Employee supports the resident and assists in any manner the employee is trained to do.
    - a. For choking emergencies, any staff member trained in the conscious choking maneuver may assist the person while summoning the nurse.
  2. Employee summons a Home nurse.
  3. Nurse performs basic first aid and appoints a staff member to dial 911 to summon paramedics.
  4. Nurse performs cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) unless the resident has previously signed Do Not Resuscitate/Intubate orders.
  5. Nurse appoints a staff member to dial 911 and summon paramedics.
- D. First aid supplies
1. The Pioneer Homes maintain readily available first aid supplies that are suited to the size of the Home.
  2. First aid procedures are readily available to Home staff.
  3. Contents of first aid kits are listed in AKPH P&P 04.09, pages 6-7.
- E. Staff responsibilities when dealing with a health emergency
1. Assess emergency health situations.
  2. Initiate emergency medical treatment.
    - a. Response to an emergency medical situation depends on the:
      - 1) Situation.
      - 2) Resident involved.
      - 3) Available resources to help the resident.
  3. Transport equipment to the scene of the emergency.
  4. Summon the emergency medical services by calling for help, such as 911.
  5. Refer resident to a hospital or specialist if care is unavailable in the Home.
    - a. Emergency may require assistance from another person, who is qualified to assist.
    - b. Multiple levels of care may be needed, depending on the severity of the emergency and the treatment given. Levels include:
      - 1) First aid performed while awaiting the next level of care.
      - 2) EMT (emergency medical technician/paramedic).
      - 3) Emergency physician.
      - 4) Specialist (i.e., surgeon).
  6. Involve all departments during any type of emergency.

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- F. Non-trauma medical emergencies
1. Stroke.
    - a. There is a window of 3 hours within which the benefit of thrombolytic drugs outweighs the risk of major bleeding into the brain.
  2. Myocardial infarction (heart attack).
    - a. Rapid stabilization of fatal arrhythmias can prevent sudden cardiac arrest.
    - b. There is a direct relationship between time of treatment and the restoration of blood flow to the heart.
    - c. Heart attack mortality and morbidity depends on time of treatment.
- G. Pioneer Home emergency codes
1. Emergency codes are used in the Homes to alert staff to various emergency situations.
  2. The use of codes is intended to convey essential information quickly and with a minimum of misunderstanding to staff.
  3. The use of codes also prevents stress or panic among visitors to the Homes.
  4. The emergency codes may be posted on placards throughout the Home or printed on employee identification badges.
  5. Emergency codes are coded by color, and the colors denote different events.
  6. Code Blue, formerly Code 99, activates a response to medical emergencies and situations requiring CPR in the Homes.

**HISTORY OF REVISIONS**

New: 1/1/12

Revised: 2/17/12; 7/20/12

Reviewed: 2/17/12

**ATTACHMENTS**

Incident/ Notification Report ALH (see Attach to 06.01)

SDS Critical Incident Report (see Attach to 06.01)

**REFERENCES**

7AAC 75.290, AKPH P&P 04.09, HCBS SOP, 7 AAC 10, AS 47.32