

PATHOLOGY SERVICES CODE BROWN SUB PLAN

Mission:

To provide urgent and essential pathology testing and safe and appropriate blood and blood product provision to patients attending RCH as a result of a code brown incident while maintaining urgent and essential testing for in-patients.

To provide clinical advice and support in the management of patients requiring transfusion and in the interpretation of abnormal laboratory tests.

To provide other services as required.

Objectives

To ensure the blood and blood product inventory and blood product delivery is sufficient to meet patient needs by;

- ensuring a good understanding of the code brown incident
- placement of a haematologist in the ED to assist with blood provision and to provide direct communication to the core laboratory
- accessing local available blood inventories where appropriate (including but not limited to RWH, RMH, Western Hospital)
- maintaining communication with the Blood Service to provide timely blood deliveries

To provide urgent and essential laboratory testing by;

- Ensuring the laboratory is adequately staffed as determined by the extent and likely duration of the code brown incident
- By ensuring that instrumentation and reagent supplies are sufficient
- To provide results in a suitable format for clinical areas including manual reporting of critical results in the event of loss of IT systems

To assist the ED in rapid and efficient pathology specimen collection by seconding Pathology Collection Staff when possible

Delegation

Level 1. When a Code Brown is activated, the Haematologist-on-call, the Principal Scientist of Haematology and Biochemistry, Manager of Specimen Reception, Operations Manager and the Director (or deputies) are required to be on site as soon as possible.

Level 2 The Principal Scientists are authorised to recall other laboratory services staff as required depending on the nature and extent of the code brown incident

Level 3 Further significant increases in resources require the approval of the EIC.

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ACTIVATION

During Normal Working Hours

Code Brown standby or activation will be broadcast using the overhead speaker system
Code Brown standby or activation will be announced as a group page to the consultant haematologists.

Duty Scientist Responsibilities

- The Duty Scientist should ensure that all other scientists within the laboratory are aware of the code brown status
- The Duty scientist should ensure the SIC of their laboratory, the Operations Manager and the Director are aware of Code Brown Status.
- The haematologist will phone the Duty Scientist to advise of estimated time of arrival of the first on-site pathologist.
- If the Duty Scientist has not heard from the haematologist within 5 minutes of code brown activation / standby, attempt to contact the haematologist by mobile phone, landline or pager. If the haematologist-on-call is unable to be contacted, proceed to contact any haematologist
- The Duty Scientist should inform RWH Core Laboratory of Code Brown status and to implement the RWH Core Laboratory Code Brown Sub plan
- The Duty Scientist is in charge of their laboratory until the arrival of SIC or Director.

After hours (weekdays, weekends and public holidays)

Code Brown standby or activation will be broadcast using the overhead speaker system
Code Brown standby or activation will be announced as a group page to the consultant haematologists.

The Most Senior Scientist Present:

- ensure that all other scientists within the laboratory are aware of the code brown status
- phone their Principal Scientist (respectively), the Operations Manager and Director to inform them of Code Brown Status (Phone numbers located in Code Brown Box)
- The haematologist will phone the Haematology laboratory scientists and advise of estimated time of arrival. If the scientist has not heard from the haematologist within 5 minutes of code brown activation / standby, attempt to contact the haematologist by mobile phone, landline or pager. If the haematologist-on-call is unable to be contacted, proceed to contact any haematologist
- The Haematology scientist should inform RWH Core Laboratory of Code Brown status and to implement the RWH Core Laboratory Code Brown Sub plan
- The most senior scientist in each discipline (i.e. Haematology and Biochemistry) is in charge of their lab until the arrival of Principal Scientists or Director.

Attachment:

LS-W-034 Code Brown Emergency Contact List

CODE BROWN ACTIONS CARDS (BELOW)

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CODE BROWN ACTION CARD

Pathology Services Team Leader (Principal Scientists, Operations Manager, Director or Haematologist)

This is an operational and logistical role with the main objective of ensuring the laboratory meets the Laboratory Services objectives.

Initial

- Advise the Laboratory of your estimated time of arrival
- Ensure you have your hospital identification to enable access to the hospital
- Put on Pathology Tabard and gather action card and incident log from Code Brown Box in core laboratory
- Use whiteboard to assist in mapping resource allocation
- Obtain blood inventory information from Haematology scientist
- Liaise with haematologist-on-call to ensure appropriate laboratory response
- You are authorized to call-back staff to ensure adequate staffing as determined by the nature and extent of the code brown incident
- Ensure RWH Core Laboratory is aware of Code Brown Status

Ongoing

- Manage the blood inventory by liaison with the haematologist, Blood Service and with information from the operational briefing to ensure it is adequate by
 - Mobilizing stocks from RWH and other blood banks as required
 - Informing security of impending blood deliveries if hospital access is restricted
- Delegate tasks as appropriate
- Manage laboratory workflow and result issue
- Manage core laboratory staffing levels
- Attend the operational briefings

Extended

Relief for this role is provided by the Director and other consultant haematologists

Return to normal business operations

- Liaise with Executive Incident Controller (EIC) re timing of conversion of unknown patients to updated identity. Consider a staged approach that does not place any risk to patients with ongoing transfusion needs
- Facilitate smooth transition to normal operations
- Ensure that all staff are informed of stand down

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CODE BROWN ACTION CARD

Laboratory On-Call Haematologist

Initial

- Advise the laboratory staff of your estimated time of arrival and proceed to the laboratory. In the event of paging system failure the Haematology scientist will contact you by phone (landline or mobile) if you have not contacted them within 5 minutes of Code Brown activation
- Ensure you have your hospital identification to enable access to the hospital
- Put on Laboratory Services arm band and gather action card and incident log
- Collect the BIM backpack with emergency O Negative red cells and proceed to ED
- Provide regular updates to Laboratory Services Team Leader who will co-ordinate the laboratory response

Ongoing:

- Assist ED staff and seconded Pathology Collection Staff (when available) in ensuring appropriate and acceptable pathology samples are forwarded to the core laboratory for testing
- Supervise and facilitate the provision of emergency O Negative red cells and then ongoing blood product support to critically ill patients. The Transfusion Nurse or Haematology Nurse Consultants will assist when available.
- Maintain communication with Operations Manager to determine changing needs for ED, ICU and theatre areas.
- Establish agreed communication channel for urgent/critical results to clinical areas
- Document actions and decisions in your incident log
- Maintain communication with the Laboratory Team Leader to ensure appropriate blood inventory and laboratory response

Extended

Move from ED to other critical areas as patients move from ED to ICU/theatre/wards to ensure a good understanding of ongoing blood support requirements and communicate this to Core Laboratory Team Leader

Consider hand-over to next haematologist-on-call depending on duration of code brown incident

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CODE BROWN ACTION CARD

Haematology/Blood Bank Scientist

Upon hearing a code brown standby or code brown announcement

Initial:

- Work as directed by the Duty Scientist (normal hours) or most senior scientist (after hours)
- Gather your Code Brown action card and blood inventory log from the Code Brown box
- Perform a blood bank inventory count indicating all red cell, FFP, cryo and platelet stock by group. Write this information including date and time on the Code Brown Inventory log
- Advise Blood Service Inventory and Distribution that blood deliveries are to be received through the main hospital entrance according to the agreed Code Brown delivery arrangement (driver to advise that they have urgent blood to deliver)

Ongoing:

Work as directed by the Principal Scientist (or delegate)

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CODE BROWN ACTION CARD

Biochemistry Scientist

Upon hearing a code brown standby or code brown announcement

Initial:

- Work as directed by the Duty Scientist (normal hours) or most senior scientist (after hours)
- Clear workspaces for expected influx of urgent specimens
- Completing any urgent outstanding work as soon as possible

Ongoing:

Work as directed by the Principal Scientist (or delegate)

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CODE BROWN ACTION CARD

RWH Core Laboratory

Initial:

- Ensure all core laboratory staff on duty are aware of Code Brown activation / standby notification
- Perform blood inventory count and provide information to RCH blood bank scientist
- Work as directed by the most senior scientist
- The senior scientist will liaise with the RCH senior scientist (Primarily haematology and biochemistry)

Ongoing:

The following actions may be required; activation of these actions will be directed by the core lab manager/senior scientist and delegated to the most appropriate person

Transport of RWH blood inventory to RCH

- Blood Service transport boxes may be used (keep 2 spare at any time for transport to RMH)
- Frozen FFP/Cryo can be transported frozen or thawed at RWH depending on RCH needs
- Transport blood using Kings courier
- Prior to blood transport to RCH notify RWH and FPH theatre (anaesthetist in charge) and Birth suite (Medical officer in charge) of downgrading of blood supply to emergency use only.

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CODE BROWN ACTION CARD

Pathology Collection Staff

Upon hearing a Code Brown standby or code brown announcement

Initial:

- Complete outstanding work in a safe and efficient manner
- Area manager or most senior staff member may second staff to assist in the ED with pathology specimen collection and labelling
- - The following may assist
- Pathology requests
- Facilitate the collection of a standard set of blood with additional samples/requests at the doctors discretion
 - FBC, coagulation profile, Group and screen for blood issue, glucose, U&E (2 EDTA, 1 citrate, 1 gel, 1 fluoride oxalate)
 - Helpful clinical notes include estimate of patient weight and injury severity

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