



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

OTSG/MEDCOM Policy Memo 10-017

17 MAR 2010

MCHO-CL-Q

Expires 17 March 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM Major Subordinate Commands

SUBJECT: Common Emergency Codes

1. Background: An increasing number of healthcare facilities are adopting common emergency code systems nationally. The first state to do so was California. The New Jersey healthcare system implemented a state-wide system in 2004; Louisiana, Rhode Island, and Ohio followed in 2005. With the transient nature of military healthcare providers either on a temporary or permanent basis, adoption of common emergency codes would help alleviate misunderstandings and contribute to improved emergency response times. The former Great Plains Regional Medical Command published a policy on standardized codes for their medical treatment facilities (MTFs) in 2008.
2. Purpose: To establish policy for adoption of common emergency codes in all medical and dental treatment facilities for the purpose of ensuring appropriate and consistent emergency response by staff members. The ultimate goal is to increase the safety of patients, staff, and visitors.
3. Proponent: The proponent for this policy is the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Health Policy and Services, Quality Management Division, Patient Safety Program.
4. Applicability: This policy applies to all medical and dental treatment facilities, to include Warrior Transition Units, worldwide.
5. Policy: All medical and dental treatment facilities will adopt the emergency codes defined in Enclosure 1 and will complete training of their staff on the common emergency codes by 1 June 2010.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Encl


HERBERT A. COLEY
Chief of Staff

Enclosure 1

| CODE | CLEAR TEXT | DESCRIPTION |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| RED | Fire | Call code: Location |
| BLUE | Cardiac or Respiratory Arrest | Call code: Location |
| PINK | Infant /Child Abduction | Call code: Age, Location |
| SILVER | Child/Adult - Lost/ Eloped | Call code: Age, Location |
| BLACK | Bomb Threat | Call code: Location |
| GREY | Disaster (activate plan) | Call code: Description |
| GREEN | Combative Person | Call code: Location |
| ORANGE | HazMat | Call code: Location |
| WHITE | Armed Intruder/ Active Shooter | Call code: Location |
| YELLOW | Utility Failure | Call code: Affected Utility |
| VIOLET | OPTIONAL MTF USE - RRS | Call code: Location |