

SECTION 8A: CLINICAL PRACTICES	POLICY: 8A.10
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PURPOSE:

- To provide timely and appropriate first responder interventions in the face of life-threatening changes in the patient’s clinical status.
- To ensure that emergency medications and/or supplies are consistently available, controlled and appropriately secured.

POLICY:

- Agency clinical staff are required to provide documentation of successful completion of CPR training upon hire, and to maintain this certification throughout employment.
- Should an Agency client exhibit changes that are judged to be life-threatening while a qualified staff in present, that staff member shall provide appropriate emergency interventions.
- Staff shall respect and honor competent patient's wishes and any advance directives that are in place.
- Patients and/or their families are provided information about Agency policies for resuscitation, medical emergencies and accessing 911 services at the time of admission, before care, treatment and/or services are initiated.

PROCEDURE:

- Upon arrival to the home the nurse should verify that a non-expired anaphylaxis kit is available, if ordered by the physician and/or provided by the attending pharmacy. The anaphylaxis kit should/may contain IM/SC epinephrine, IV/IM Benadryl, and IV fluids per provider orders.
- Physician orders are required for an anaphylaxis kit to be present in a patient’s home while receiving care, treatment and/or services.
- In the event of an emergency (i.e., anaphylaxis, respiratory distress, or loss of pulse) the staff member is to activate the emergency medical system (EMS) (911 in most areas).

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- Qualified staff may take appropriate measures to maintain/sustain life including:
 - Initiating basic first aid
 - Maintaining an open airway
 - Initiating CPR

The above actions shall not be initiated if a valid "Do Not Resuscitate" order has been signed by the patient's physician and is in the patient's medical record.

- Staff are to:
 - Remain with the patient until EMS staff arrive
 - Provide pertinent information to EMS staff
 - Notify the Clinical Supervisor describing all events
 - Document the events on the clinical visit note
- The Clinical Supervisor or staff member shall notify the physician, describing all events, including disposition of the patient.