

SUBJECT: LIFE THREATENING MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

APPROVED BY

EFFECTIVE

DATE: 03-22-11 (replaces 08-17-09)

Executive Director

Reviewed (no changes): _____

Medical Director

POLICY

It is the policy of McIntosh Trail CSB that consumers experiencing a life threatening medical emergency or adverse medication reaction receive necessary medical care with the immediacy demanded of an emergency.

PROCEDURE

The following procedure has been established to insure timely response to medical emergencies and adverse medication reactions in all service sites administered by this agency.

1. There will be staff on duty at all times who are certified in CPR and First Aid so that basic life-saving skills are available to consumers in need of them. In this event, CPR is immediately begun and full EMT support is called.
2. Emergency phone numbers are conspicuously posted at each of the agency's facilities.
3. In the event of an adverse reaction to medication, the following procedures apply.
 - a. In the case of adverse reactions causing physical distress to the consumer (such as acute dystonia or severe akathisia), the physician on duty for the service facility is immediately notified. If the physician is not on site for the evaluation and treatment of the consumer, all policies and procedures regarding the use of telephone medication orders apply (see Medication Use and Monitoring Policy).
 - b. Some adverse medication reactions may present as medical emergencies in evolution; examples of this include neuroleptic malignant syndrome, some allergic reactions with airway compromise, and severe dystonic reactions. In these events, call 911 so that the consumer can be transported to the nearest Emergency Room for evaluation.
 - c. The nature of the adverse reaction and the medication thought responsible for this reaction is documented in the medical record and reported to Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee (See Adverse Drug Event Policy).