

CODE CRIMSON PLUS – ED – SCH

PRACTICE GUIDELINE[®]

DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- The purpose of this document is to **streamline access to definitive life-saving interventions** in critical unwell children.
- **At SCH, do not call the switch board to activate “Code Crimson”**
- Code Crimson Plus is designed to augment the **Trauma Call and Code Blue Emergency** response systems within the SCH ED
- Responsibility for activating this pathway lies with the in charge ED Consultant in collaboration with the ED Nursing Team leader
- This pathway is designed to facilitate rapid notification of in charge Specialists in relevant subspecialties and efficiently activate appropriate processes within the hospital such as immediate attendance at reception of patient, the opening of operating theatres, preparation for interventional radiology and activation of the Massive Transfusion Protocol

This guideline should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- [NSW ACI Trauma Code Crimson Pathway](#)
- [Trauma Call Criteria – ED – SCH](#) Policy
- [Massive Transfusion Protocol \(MTP\) – Paediatric](#) Policy

CHANGE SUMMARY

- N/A - new Practice Guideline

READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- All ED clinical staff: nurses and medical officers need to understand and acknowledge this document.

This document reflects what is currently regarded as safe practice. However, as in any clinical situation, there may be factors which cannot be covered by a single set of guidelines. This document does not replace the need for the application of clinical judgement to each individual presentation.

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| Approved by: | SCHN Policy, Procedure and Guideline Committee | |
| Date Effective: | 1 st May 2024 | Review Period: 3 years |
| Team Leader: | Staff Specialist | Area/Dept: Emergency Department SCH |

Overview

Some children presenting to the ED at SCH will require **time critical life-saving interventions**. These situations are rare and require rapid activation of teams within the hospital. Processes activated by this pathway are over and above the standard teams and processes activated by existing Trauma Call and Code Blue responses.

The ED Consultant in charge should ensure the most senior clinician in the appropriate surgical, radiological or medical specialty is notified and briefed on need, timing and location of required attendance.

The following situations will commonly trigger activation of this process however the list below is not exclusive, and this pathway may be activated in any situation where immediate life-saving and/or limb saving interventions are required:

Common Code Crimson Plus Activation Scenarios

Pre-Hospital “Code Crimson” or “Trauma Code Crimson” notification

Pre-Hospital or In-Hospital critical airway or ventilation catastrophe

Pre-hospital or in-hospital uncontrolled haemorrhage

Pre-hospital or in hospital neurosurgical catastrophe

Pre-hospital or in hospital critical limb injury or limb compromise

For Paediatric Stroke please refer to the [Stroke Management in the Emergency Department](#) policy

Pre-Hospital "Code Crimson" notification
Prehospital or in hospital request for urgent life saving investigation or intervention

ED Senior Medical Officer

Clarify:

- Situation and needs
- Estimated time of arrival
- Place of arrival / need for receiving team at helipad?

Manage resource allocation within ED in collaboration with **ED Nursing Team leader**
Inform **Clerical Staff**
Ensure appropriate **Code Blue** or **Trauma Call** activated

Important Contact Numbers

Blood bank
Ext 23232

Radiology Registrar
Mob 0436849780
or
Mob 0497409043 (after hours)

