



Nursing and Exercise Physiologist Guidelines for Cardiovascular Rehabilitation (CR) #9

- Title:** **Effective Patient Handoff from CR personnel to ED personnel during a Cardiac Therapy Session (CTS) or Cardiopulmonary Exercise (CPX) Test**
- Responsibility:** Cardiovascular Rehabilitation Personnel
- Purpose of Guidelines:** To ensure safe, efficient, and effective patient handoff from Cardiovascular Rehabilitation Services staff to Emergency Department staff in the event of an urgent or emergent situation during a CTS or CPX test.
- Procedure:**
- I. During a Cardiac Therapy Session (CTS):
 - A. Cardiovascular Rehabilitation (CR) staff will identify symptoms of exercise intolerance or a change in patient's symptoms during a CTS and determine whether the patient should be transported to the Emergency Department.
 1. See Urgent and Emergency Procedures Policy Number: 3364-162-03
 - B. Staff will call the ED lead nurse at ASCOM #1663 to inform them that staff will be transporting a patient to the Emergency Room from Cardiovascular Rehabilitation. CR staff will provide lead nurse with a brief description of patient's current symptoms and answer any questions he/she might have.
 - C. Staff will print out patient's clinic history form from VersaCare monitoring system as well as the daily session report if available.
 - D. If the patient is stable, at least one CR staff member will transport patient via wheelchair or stretcher to the ED.
 - E. Staff will enter the ED triage and, if a room is available, transport patient back to the room. If no room is available, CR staff will take patient's paperwork back to the RN station while the patient waits in triage.
 - F. Staff will speak with either the lead RN or the patient's assigned RN to give a description of the patient's history and symptoms. Staff will give the clinic history form and session report to the RN.

- G. Before leaving, CR staff will make sure that ED RN has no further questions about patient.
- II. During a Cardiopulmonary Exercise (CPX) Test:
- A. Cardiovascular Rehabilitation (CR) staff will identify symptoms of exercise intolerance or a change in patient's symptoms during a CPX test and determine whether the patient should be transported to the Emergency Department.
 - 1. See Urgent and Emergency Procedures Policy Number: 3364-162-03
 - 2. Staff may consult with a physician, cardiology fellow, or nurse practitioner prior to transporting patient to the ED.
 - B. Staff will call the ED lead RN at ASCOM #1663 to inform them that staff will be transporting a patient to the Emergency Room from the Heart and Vascular Center Stress Lab. CR staff will provide lead RN with a brief description of patient's current symptoms and answer any questions he/she might have.
 - C. Staff will gather any available information on the patient's history.
 - 1. For a CPX patient, this may include the clinic history form from the VersaCare monitoring system, list of medications, any ECGs or data from the CPX test, and/or notes/test results from recent physician appointments.
 - D. If the patient is stable, at least one CR staff member will transport patient via wheelchair or stretcher to the ED.
 - E. Staff will enter the ED triage and, if a room is available, transport patient back to the room. If no room is available, CR staff will take patient's paperwork back to the RN station while patient waits in triage.
 - F. Staff will speak with either the lead RN or the patient's assigned RN to give a description of the patient's history and symptoms. Staff will give all available patient history paperwork to the RN.
 - G. Before leaving, CR staff will make sure that ED RN has no further questions about patient.

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