

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
59TH MEDICAL WING**

59TH MEDICAL WING INSTRUCTION 44-193

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Medical

**MANAGEMENT OF INCAPACITATED
PROVIDERS**

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This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive 44-1, *Medical Operations*. This instruction outlines procedures for managing medical or surgical procedures in the event a health care professional becomes incapacitated throughout the facilities of the 59th Medical Wing (MDW). For the purposes of this document an incapacitated provider is a physician or health care worker who has acutely become physically or mentally impaired in the ability to provide patient care. This instruction applies to all personnel assigned, attached, or on contract to the 59 MDW. This instruction does not apply to the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with Air Force Records Information Management System Records Disposition Schedule located at <https://www.my.af.mil/afrims/afrims/afrims/rims.cfm>

1. Operating Room (OR) Procedures. In the event that the surgeon or anesthesia provider becomes incapacitated in an operating room during a surgical case, the remaining provider in the room will assume immediate care of the patient and the incapacitated provider. He/she will direct ancillary staff to initiate the call for help from the flight commander or service chief of the incapacitated provider. Then he/she will take over care of the patient and begin Basic Life Support (BLS) procedures, if applicable, to assure that the patient is stabilized, observed, or

recovered as necessary. The flight commander or service chief will immediately determine if the procedure should be finished or simply rescheduled and designate a replacement for the incapacitated provider if appropriate. Once urgent medical needs are provided for the patient and/or incapacitated provider, the clinic flight commander will notify the group SGH. If the group SGH is unavailable, the 59 MDW/SGH will be notified.

2. Minor medical, dental or surgical procedures outside the OR including conscious sedation.

2.1. In the event the provider who in the course of seeing the patient and/or doing a procedure becomes incapacitated, the medical/dental personnel assisting the provider will begin BLS procedures and direct ancillary staff to initiate the call for help from the flight commander or service chief of the service of the incapacitated provider. Responding staff will stabilize the patient and transport them to an empty treatment room. The flight commander will make arrangements for the patient to have the procedure completed by another provider if possible, or arrange for the safe termination and rescheduling of the procedure. In the event that the flight commander is unavailable, the service chief or squadron commander will make the arrangements. Once urgent medical needs are addressed for both the patient and for the incapacitated provider, the clinic flight commander will notify the group SGH. If the group SGH is unavailable, the 59 MDW/SGH will be notified.

2.2. If the patient has not undergone a procedure and is stable, he/she will be escorted to the waiting area. The patient will be given the option of rescheduling the appointment or waiting until an alternate provider is available. If the patient opts to leave without seeing an alternate provider, the clinic nurse will review the patient's clinical status to ensure his or her needs are met, including medication refills, ordering labs and any other care that is necessary, prior to discharge from the facility.

HELEN HOOTSMANS, Colonel, USAF, MC, FS
Chief of the Medical Staff

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

AFPD 44-1, *Medical Operations*, 1 September 1999

AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 March 2008

Adopted Forms

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*, 22 September 2009

Acronyms and Abbreviations

BLS—Basic Life Support

MDW—Medical Wing

OR—Operating Room