

**UC Riverside, School of Medicine Policies and Procedures****Policy Title:** Syncope Response**Policy Number:** 950-03-015

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Director, Ambulatory Operations
<b>Responsible Office:</b>	Clinic Operations
<b>Origination Date:</b>	03/01/2016
<b>Date of Revision:</b>	05/09/2019, 08/3/2023
<b>Scope:</b>	UCR Health Clinics

**I. Policy Summary**

To provide guidelines on how to respond to patients with Altered Level of Consciousness/Syncope.

**II. Policy Text**

A. This policy is to guide staff members and ensure that they are adequately equipped to respond appropriately and competently to patients having Altered Level of Consciousness/ Syncope.

**III. Responsibilities**

All Faculty Practice Locations staff.

**IV. Procedures**

A. When a patient presents with symptoms of syncope, protect the patient from fall injury, alert physician for immediate actions, and follow physicians directions.

1. Protect patient from fall injury.
2. Position the patient in the recumbent position with legs elevated. Loosen tight clothing at the neck and waist. If the patient does not immediately regain consciousness, call 911 for EMS support and consider lateral positioning to prevent aspiration or airway obstruction. If sitting, do not lower head by bending at waist (may further compromise venous return to heart).
3. Administer CPR if no pulse or patient stops breathing
4. Physician will direct vital signs monitoring frequencies and parameters.
5. Notify physicians of vital signs reading.
6. Do not give anything by mouth or allow the patient to resume an upright position until feeling of weakness has passed.

B. Physicians will assess and evaluate to determine when a patient can discharge from the clinic.

C. Based on Physician assessment and evaluation, if patient does not stabilize, call 911 for EMS transport to closest appropriate hospital Emergency Department.

**V. Related Policies and Protocols**

950-03-028 Responding to a Medical Emergency at UCR Health Clinics.

**VI. Revision History**

New 3/2016

Revised 5/2019, 8/2023

Approvals:

**COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (08/22/2023)**

DocuSigned by:

*Paul Hackman*

BC5CF44DC0494EA...

9/1/2023 | 4:01 PM PDT

DATE

PAUL HACKMAN, J.D., L.L.M.  
CHIEF COMPLIANCE AND PRIVACY OFFICER,  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DocuSigned by:

*DEBORAH DEAS*

870C12B416E84CB...

9/1/2023 | 6:41 PM PDT

DATE

DEBORAH DEAS, M.D., M.P.H  
VICE CHANCELLOR, HEALTH SCIENCES  
DEAN, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE