

Purpose of this procedure:

NHS Lothian sites have individualised Cardiac Arrest SOPs due to the differing availability of members of staff available to respond to an emergency. The SOP which is available to all staff gives clear instruction about who to contact in the event of an emergency. [These SOP's will also, where appropriate, instruct staff how to activate Paediatric and Medical Emergency teams if that site has one.](#) The heads of departments are responsible for ensuring that all staff are familiar with the relevant SOP(s). General guidance is provided below.

The Procedure:

Hospitals that have a designated cardiac arrest team

In the event of a cardiac arrest or other medical emergency the cardiac arrest team should be called via switchboard by dialling **2222**. Staff are required to state:

The nature of the emergency, for example cardiac arrest

- The ward or department
- The hospital they are calling from
- This should then be repeated.

The switchboard staff will then activate the appropriate bleeps.

Depending on the location of the patient, there may also be the requirement to arrange an emergency ambulance for the transfer of the patient to an acute hospital. This should be requested by dialling (9)999.

It is important that this ambulance is called directly from the ward or department dealing with the emergency as the Emergency Medical Dispatch Centre will require a number of questions to be answered by someone who is currently at the scene of the emergency.

[The sites that have an emergency team that is activated by dialling 2222 are:](#)

- [Astley Ainslie Hospital](#)
- [Herdmanflat Hospital](#)
- [Liberton Hospital](#)
- [Midlothian Community Hospital](#)
- [Roodlands Hospital](#)
- [Royal Edinburgh Hospital](#)
- [Royal Hospital for Sick Children](#)
- [Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh](#)
- [St. John's Hospital](#)
- [Western General Hospital](#)

All other sites

In the event of a cardiac arrest or other medical emergency an emergency ambulance should be requested by dialling (9)999.

It is important that this ambulance is called directly from the ward or department dealing with the emergency as the Emergency Medical Dispatch Centre will require a number of questions to be answered by someone who is currently at the scene of the emergency.

Collapsed patients within the grounds of a hospital

For events occurring within the grounds of hospitals where 2222 applies, it may be appropriate to obtain an emergency ambulance by dialing (9)999 (see local SOP).

Links to Standard Operating Procedures

- [Astley Ainslie Hospital](#)
- [East Lothian Hospital](#)
- [Midlothian Community Hospital](#)
- [Royal Edinburgh Hospital](#)
- [Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh](#)
- [St. John's Hospital](#)
- [Western General Hospital](#)