

Parry Pack Retrieval Kit Guidelines

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| Owner: | Health Network Branch |
| Contact: | Health Networks Branch |
| Version: | 5 |
| Approved by: | Jodie South, A/ED System Policy & Planning |
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| Guideline reference number: | RSD-09741 |
| Links to: | Supersedes – DoH (WA) Operational Circular 0065/09 |

Summary

The 'Parry Pack' or retrieval kit is a standard set of equipment and drugs that is easily carried to an emergency care situation with a small number of casualties (<5). It must be noted that this kit is not designed to cater for mass casualty events. Although it may be useful many additional items as recommended by the WA Disaster Preparedness Unit (see links page 6) would be required for these events.

All rural WA public hospitals and nursing posts have access to a parry pack for occasions when they must travel quickly and efficiently to another location to provide emergency care. These guidelines outline the minimum list of medical equipment and drugs that would be useful in an emergency, and should be carried in the parry pack. The inventory has been selected by a team of health professionals with the experience and knowledge in emergency care, to determine the most appropriate content. This includes deciding which items are expendable for the sake of practicality.

The guideline will act as a point of reference for rural health services to ensure their retrieval kits are stocked with the best and most appropriate emergency care supplies. As the guidelines will be periodically updated in accordance with developments in medical knowledge and technological advances, health professionals can ensure their kits are consistent with current knowledge of best-practice in emergency care.

Objective and Scope

The parry pack guidelines will:

- Ensure a consistent, best-practice approach to emergency care across rural WA.
- Serve as a point of reference for doctors and nurses in rural hospitals or nursing posts, to ensure they have the most appropriate equipment to treat patients off-site.
- Allow health services to up-date their packs in-line with advances in medical knowledge and technological innovation.

These guidelines will be relevant to any doctors or nurses who may be called to an emergency in rural WA. They apply to all rural WA public hospitals and nursing posts, which are mandated to carry these kits. The guidelines will benefit rural WA patients receiving emergency care.

Health care in rural WA faces many challenges as a result of the vast geographical spread of its populace. The emergency packs are vital to providing adequate care, as doctors and nurses often need to travel great distances to reach the patient. The guidelines take into account the unique situation of rural patients, practitioners, and health services. For example, a key element of the guidelines is ensuring the parry pack inventory is comprehensive yet still easily portable.

Introduction

In 1995 the “emergency resuscitation kit” was designed and developed under the direction of Dr John Parry, and through wide consultation with relevant health professionals. This retrieval kit became known as a “parry pack”, and every rural WA health centre must carry one. The list of the minimum contents of these kits was first disseminated as an operational circular in September 1995.

The parry pack inventory was reviewed and updated in December 2002, and April 2003. In October 2003 a single drug item that had been discontinued was removed and replaced with a substitute. The parry pack inventory was updated again in June 2009, to keep the contents in-line with current knowledge of best practice.

Definitions

- Parry Pack: A retrieval kit designed to be easily carried to small casualty emergency situations.
- Nursing Post: The Hospitals and Health Service Act 1927 defines Nursing Post as “a place at which a nurse is stationed and at which facilities exist for medical attention but which is not normally used for the accommodation of in-patients.

Methodology

Developing the inventory

The original parry pack inventory was developed through a process of consultation with a range of health professionals, with expertise in pre-hospital, emergency and rural care. The group who reviewed and updated the parry pack in 2002 was chaired by Dr John Parry, and included representatives of Surgery, Intensive Care, Emergency Medicine, Rural Medicine, Paramedics, Nursing, and the RFDS.

It is unnecessary to research the equipment and medicines that are included in the pack, the purpose of the inventory is to outline which tools are used most often in emergency situations, which are essential, and which are expendable until the patient is able to reach a medical centre. Only health professionals with knowledge of or experience in emergency care in the unique rural WA environment can determine best practice for stocking an emergency kit for use in WA.

The updates of the parry pack inventory are done through consensus, with working groups of relevant health professionals, representing a wide range of experiences and perspectives. The 2009 update was conducted by a group representing the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), rural emergency medicine, Australian Resuscitation Council, West Australian Country Health Service (WACHS), several staff specialists in emergency medicine, St John Ambulance Australia – WA Branch (SJAA WA), and a critical nurse specialist. See the acknowledgements (p 5) for a full description of the working group members.

Each working group member reviewed the items of the previous inventory, and based on their knowledge and experience decided whether the item should be deleted, modified, or remain unchanged. The group then convened to compare findings and debate the merit of each item, drawing on the full breadth of the group's experience, and expertise. Decisions were made on consensus. This process allows:

- Replacement of old equipment with newer versions.
- Incorporation of new equipment and medications.
- Modification of existing items to improve usefulness, for example extra bandages or larger syringes.
- Debate on the usefulness versus practicality of the items – what items are expendable for the sake of extra space or less weight.

Once consensus was reached, the modified inventory was approved by the clinical lead of the Acute Care Health Network and the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), before being disseminated state-wide via an operational circular.

The guideline (or inventory) for the parry pack is presented in a table format (pages 7-11) which outlines each item, any recent modifications to it, and the reason why. This simple format makes it easy for the health service staff to see which items need to be added/changed/removed, and updated accordingly.

Applying the Inventory

It is the responsibility of each health service to ensure their parry pack is continually stocked in accordance with the guidelines – it is expected that emergency staff will assume responsibility for checking completeness and currency of the kits. If a specific item is out of stock, a suitable substitute should be used until it can be replaced. Local emergency staff must be familiarised with the contents of the 'parry pack', trained in correct technique for use of the equipment, and have a working knowledge of the included pharmaceuticals. The inventory is a minimal list of items that should be included in the packs. The tables can be printed off and added to the kit to assist 'checking' of the stock on a regular basis (at least monthly is recommended). Staff can use their own discretion in deciding whether or not to include additional items.

Recommendations and Review Date

- The guidelines should be systematically reviewed and updated annually by a working group consisting of health professionals with experience in rural and emergency care.
- The guidelines should have unscheduled updates in response to any major developments in emergency care.
- The guidelines should be disseminated to all health services immediately following updates.
- Each health service should have a system to ensure the parry packs are consistently checked for currency and completeness.

About the Guideline Team

The 2009 update was completed under the direction of Dr John Van Der Post, and a group of health professionals who sit on the Acute Care Health Network Executive Advisory Group. Additional expert opinion has been sourced as appropriate.

Acknowledgements

The original parry pack inventory guidelines (1995) were developed under the direction of Dr John Parry, and he along with his development team are credited with creating the original guideline. The 2009 review group members as listed below must also be acknowledged as based on the feedback received the work of this group remains unedited for this version (4).

| Working Group Member | Organisation | Position |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Dr. John Van Der Post | Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital | Staff Specialist in Emergency medicine |
| Dr. Angela O'Connell | Royal Flying Doctor Service | Pre-hospital Doctor |
| Dr. Adam Coulson | Bunbury Regional Hospital | Staff Specialist in Emergency Medicine |
| Dr. Ian Dey | Armadale Hospital | Director of Emergency Medicine |
| Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ian Jacobs | University of Western Australia; QEII Medical Centre | Chair, Australian Resuscitation Council |
| Dr. Geoff Masters | West Australian Country Health Service | Executive Director of Medical Services |
| Dr. Garry Wilkes | St John Ambulance Assoc. (WA Branch) | Medical Director |
| Ms. Lisa Gray | Swan District Health Service | Clinical Nurse Specialist – Emergency Department |
| Ms Karina Moore | Health Networks Branch | Senior Development Officer |

Companion Documents

The parry pack inventory is attached as Appendix A, p7. This details the items that are included in the retrieval kits (equipment and drugs), and any modifications since the last update.

Feedback from health professionals who use the parry pack is very useful to inform future reviews. Please refer to the feedback form Appendix B, p12.

Links

- DoH (WA) Disaster Preparedness and Management Unit
<http://www.health.wa.gov.au/disaster>
- St John Ambulance (WA)
<http://www.ambulance.net.au/>
- Royal Flying Doctors Service – Western Operations
<http://www.rfdswa.com.au/>

References

MIMS Online

<https://www-mimsonline-com-au.eplibresources.health.wa.gov.au/Search/Search.aspx>

eTG Therapeutic Guidelines Limited

<http://etg.tg.com.au.eplibresources.health.wa.gov.au/ip/>

Appendix A: Current Parry Pack Equipment List

| ITEM | COMMENTS |
|---|--|
| Front Pouch | |
| 4x Normal Saline 0.9% 500ml | |
| Heavy Duty scissors | |
| 1 x space blanket | |
| Back Pouch | |
| 2 IV giving sets with hand pump & injection Port | Ideally compatible with a needless system where available, ensure compatible with bungs and syringes supplied. |
| Left Side Opening | |
| 3A Nasogastric tubes: 14G x 1 10G x 1 | |
| Sachet of lubricant | |
| 1x drainage bag with tap | |
| 3B 4 x large combine dressings (20 x 20cm) | |
| 3C: Adhesive tape (2.5cm) | |
| Waterproof adhesive tape (Sleek ®) | |
| Safety pins assorted sizes | |
| 3D IV Cannulae: 4 x: 14G 2" 16G 1 ¼" 18G 1 ¼" 20G 1 ¼" 22G 1" 24G ¾" | Ideally retractable and compatible with a needless system where available, ensure compatible with giving set supplied. |
| 4x injection ports (bungs) | Ideally compatible with a needless system where available, ensure compatible with giving set supplied. |
| 20x alcohol Wipes | |
| 3E Adult face mask | |
| Paediatric face mask | |
| Spacer for Salbutamol MDI | (Multi-fit and disposable eg AeroChamber Plus®) |
| 3F 2x sterile cord clamps | |
| Gloves non sterile: 8x medium 8x large | Good quality is essential |
| Small antiseptic hand lotion | |
| 3G 4x heavy crepe bandages | |

ENDORSED 22/8/2012

| ITEM | COMMENTS |
|---|--|
| Right side Opening Spare long life batteries: 2x back up of each size and type to fit all battery operated equipment in bag. | Sealed with expiry date visible. |
| 4A Not used | |
| 4B Laryngoscope handle | |
| Laryngoscope blades: 1x size 4 curved 1x size 2 straight 1x size 0 straight | Recommend metal fibre optic disposable compatible with the handle NOT Plastic |
| Magills forceps – adult and paediatric | |
| Disposable flexible connector or liquorice stick | |
| Cloth tape | |
| 4C 2x Heimlich valves Intercostal catheters: 2x 28G 2x 20G | Ideally ‘trocar’ less tubes |
| 2x Intra osseous needle | |
| 4D Stethoscope | |
| 1 x LED Headlamp | |
| 5 Long Pouch | |
| Yankauer Sucker | |
| Y-suction catheters: 2x 8G 2x 12G 2x 14G | |
| 2x Urinary catheters (Foley) 14G 1x Urinary drainage bag with tap | |
| Anaesthetic lubricant syringe, Lignocaine Jelly | |
| 6 Large Side Pouch 1x Disposable dressing pack 2x 30ml Antiseptic solution Chlorhexidine 1%, 2x Incontinent sheet (AKA ‘bluey’) | |
| Sterile instruments: 1x Dissecting forceps 1x Needle holders 1x Crile curved artery forceps 1x Fine vein scissors 1x Suture scissors | |
| Disposable scalpels: 1x No 11 1x No 23 | |
| Suture material: 1x 3/0 1x 2/0 1x 0 | Non-absorbable preferred |

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| | |
|---|---|
| 7 Small Side Pouch | |
| Syringe: 2x 20ml 3x 10ml 3x 5ml 3x 2ml 3x 1ml | Ensure all are compatible with the IV giving set supplied – particularly for needless systems |
| Needles: 3x 18G 3x 21G 3x 25G | |
| 8 Large Bottom Pouch | |
| Sharps Container | |
| Disposable towelettes eg Wet ones® | Small soft flat pack |
| Introducer stylets: 1x adult size 1x infant size | |
| 9 Sphygmomanometer | |
| 10 Laerdal Resuscitator | |
| Adult self-inflating bag & valve assembly with reservoir and connection for supplemental oxygen | |
| Resuscitation Masks: 1x size 5 1x size 3 1x size 1 | |
| Neonatal masks: 1x infant 1x premature | |
| Guedel airways: 1x size 3 1x size 2 1x size 1 1x size 0 | |
| 11 Loose Objects | |
| ET Tubes: Cuffed, 1x sizes 5, 6, 7,8,9 Uncuffed, 1x sizes 3, 4 | |
| CO ₂ Detector Device | Disposable colour metric eg Easy Cap II®, Pedi Cap® |
| 2x cubital fossa splints | |
| 12 Stationery – Both outer zip pockets | |
| Large Indelible pen | |
| Clipboard with A4 bank pad, local stationery, 2 x ball point pens, pencil | |
| Neck Brace/Collar: 1x Adult 1x Paediatric | Collapsible, deformable type |

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| | |
|---|-------------------|
| 13 Drug Tray | See attached list |
| 14 Oxyviva Or portable oxygen & suction | |
| Oxygen tubing (5 metres) | |

PARRY PACK DRUG LIST

| DRUG/IV FLUID | STRENGTH | VOLUME | QUANTITY |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Adrenaline | 1mg | 1ml | 5 |
| Adrenaline | 1mg | 10ml | 1 |
| Aspirin | 300mg | | 30 |
| Atropine | 0.6mg | 1ml | 5 |
| Ceftriaxone | 1g | | 1 |
| Glucose oral gel | 15g | | 2 |
| Glucose | 50% | 50ml | 1 |
| GTN Nitrolingual spray | 400mcg per 1 spray | 14.7ml | 1 |
| Haloperidol | 5mg | 1ml | 5 |
| Hydrocortisone | 100mg | 2ml | 2 |
| Ketamine | 200mg | 2ml | 5 |
| Lignocaine | 2% | 5ml | 5 |
| Midazolam | 5mg | 5ml | 5 |
| Morphine | 10mg | 1ml | 5 |
| Naloxone | 400mcg | 1ml | 2 |
| Ondancetron IV | 4mg | 2ml | 5 |
| Oxytocin | 5IU | 1ml | 5 |
| Paracetamol | 500mg | Tabts | 12 |
| Phenytoin | 100mg | 2ml | 2 |
| Promethazine | 50mg | 2ml | |
| Salbutamol | 100mcg | 200dose | 1 MDInhaler |
| Sodium Bicarbonate | 8.40% | 50ml | 1 |
| Sodium Chloride | 0.90% | 10ml | 5 |
| Suxamethonium | 100mg | 2ml | |
| Vecuronium | 4mg | | |
| Water for Injections | | 10ml | 5 |

**Alterations to equipment and drug lists from superceded OP 1688/03
16th October 2003 96-01294**

The items below have been removed for the following reasons:

- Current evidence does not support inclusion
- Another item in the pack could be used instead
- The item is rarely used and therefore does not meet the minimum set criteria.

| REMOVED EQUIPMENT |
|---|
| Scalp Vein Needles: 2 x 21G 2 x 25G |
| Face mask with nebuliser attachment |
| Plastic laryngoscope blades |
| 1 x Emergency Pneumothorax set |
| Disposable sterile drape, poly lined |
| 1 x Small and 1 x large tracheostomy tubes |
| ET Tubes uncuffed sizes, 5,6 |
| Neonatal ET 2.5cm |
| Surgical marking pen |
| 5 x history cards, |
| 5 x triage cards, |
| Ground sheet x 1 |
| IV access kit |
| Lightweight Intubation kit |
| Replace metal laryngoscope blades and handle with plastic military-style. |

| REMOVED DRUGS | | |
|------------------------|--------|-------|
| Diazepam | 10mg | 2ml |
| Ergometrine | | |
| Frusemide | 20mg | 2ml |
| Haemaccel | | 500ml |
| Hartmann's | | 500ml |
| Isosorbide Dinitrate | 5mg | Tabs |
| Metoclopramide | 10mg | 2ml |
| Metoprolol | 1mg | 1ml |
| Pethidine | 100mg | 2ml |
| Salbutamol | 500mcg | 1ml |
| Salbutamol | 5mg/ml | 30ml |
| Tramadol Hydrochloride | 100mg | 2ml |
| Verapamil | 5mg | 2ml |

Appendix B. Parry Pack (Retrieval Kit) Guideline Feedback Form

Please consider taking the time to provide feedback on this policy to inform future reviews.

Responses may be submitted via email to healthpolicy@health.wa.gov.au or completed in hard copy and sent either by facsimile on (08) 9 222 2130 or by mail to, Health Networks Branch, PO Box 8172, Perth Business Centre, WA 6849.

If you have any queries, please contact the Health Networks Branch on 9222 0200.

We look forward to receiving your feedback.

1. Does your feedback represent an individual or group/organisational perspective?

- An individual
- A group/organisation (Please specify):

2. What do you believe are the strengths of the guideline?

3. What do you believe are the gaps or limitations in the guideline?

4. Has the guideline been useful in developing your Parry Pack (Retrieval Kit)?

- No - Please detail below any issues or barriers:
- Yes - Please detail in what way it was useful:

5. Do you have any other comments concerning any aspect of the Guidelines?

Thank you for taking time to provide feedback