

VAD AWARE:

What every employee needs to know about the patient with a VENTRICULAR ASSIST DEVICE (VAD)

VAD Aware means YOU CAN:

- 1) Identify the VAD PATIENT and DEVICE
- 2) Locate/contact the PRIMARY RESOURCES available for VAD support
- 3) Call a “**CODE BLUE**” for the VAD patient



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What is a VAD?

VAD = Ventricular Assist Device

Certain diseases of the heart can decrease it's ability to pump blood effectively.

A Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) is a mechanical device used to partially or completely replace the function of the failing pumping chambers of the heart (called the ventricles).

VADs help heart failure patients survive while waiting for a donor heart or instead of receiving a transplant.



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IDENTIFYING the PATIENT and DEVICE

While the actual pump [VAD] has been surgically implanted into a patient by a cardiothoracic surgeon, all VAD systems have some parts on the outside of the body.

Basic External Features of a VAD System include a:

- ♥ Wearable control system-In a bag, vest
- ♥ Power source-AC power or battery power





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Examples of equipment you will see to help identify VAD Patients. VAD Patients should be attended by a family member or staff member with specialized training.



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KNOW THE PRIMARY RESOURCES FOR VAD PATIENT SUPPORT

1. VAD Coordinator; phone: **478-365-0721**
2. [VAD webpage](#) located on the Navicent Health Intranet
 Departments  Ventricular Assist Device
3. CVICU @ ext. **3-1030** and Main 4 @ ext. **3-1050**
3. Thoratec Heart line; toll free: **1-800-456-1477**



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In the event you find a VAD patient who is
unconscious or unresponsive

YOU CAN CALL A CODE BLUE

- ♥ Call EXT. 3-1600 as YOU would for any other code event.
- ♥ Notify the VAD Coordinator STAT (478-365-0721).
- ♥ **Do NOT perform CHEST COMPRESSIONS!**
- ♥ Code team may follow all ACLS protocols EXCLUDING chest compressions.
- ♥ Do NOT disconnect any parts of the external VAD system controller before using the AED/performing external defibrillation.
- ♥ DO NOT DISCONNECT OR CHANGE POWER SOURCES.

**VAD PATIENTS MAY HAVE GOOD
PERFUSION AND CIRCULATION WITHOUT A
PALPABLE PULSE**



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Click The Link Below For The Post-test

VAD AWARE ANNUAL EDUCATION

When the test is successfully completed (score 100%), you will be prompted to supply your name, API # and the last four digits of your social security number



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