

DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR) PHYSICIANS ORDER FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT (POLST)

ALWAYS USE BODY SUBSTANCE ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS

INDICATION

- Patients in respiratory or cardiopulmonary arrest with valid DNR documentation at scene

PHYSICIAN CONSULT

- If there is any problem of any sort at the scene or if any therapy was instituted and the therapy is now in question

CONTRAINDICATION

- DNR order is not valid in suspected homicide or suicide situations

CRITICAL INFORMATION

- If the patient or Designated Decision Maker (DDM) requests treatment, including resuscitation, the request should be honored.
- The patient should receive treatment for pain, dyspnea, major hemorrhage, relief of choking or other medical conditions.
- Do Not resuscitate (DNR) means **NO**:
 - Assisted ventilation
 - Chest compressions
 - Defibrillation
 - Intubation
 - Cardiotonic drugs
- Approved pre-hospital DNR directives include:
 - A DNR directive signed by both the patient and physician; a copy or original is valid
 - A DNR order signed by a physician in the patient's chart at a licensed health facility
 - A Physician's Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form indicating DNR
 - An Emergency Medical Services Authority/ California Medical Association (EMSA/CMA) "Pre-hospital Do Not Resuscitate" form
 - An approved medallion (e.g. Medic-Alert) inscribed with the words: "Do Not Resuscitate-EMS"
 - A DNR order issued by the patient's physician who is on scene, or who issues a DNR order verbally over the phone to field personnel
- If any doubt exists begin CPR immediately. Once initiated, CPR should be continued unless it is determined the patient meets determination of death criteria or a valid DNR order / form is presented. If conflicting documents exist, follow the most recently dated document.

TREATMENT

- Follow standard procedures on arrival and assess the patient
- If information of a DNR exists, responders must see the signed order, form or medallion and should not accept a verbal order unless from the intended receiving ED physician or from the patient's own physician, who is in attendance or is available by phone.
- If a patient with a DNR order collapses in public, responders will notify the appropriate public safety agency and remain on the scene until their arrival.

DOCUMENTATION- ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- Bring the DNR form or order to the hospital if patient is transported.
- Attach a copy of the DNR to the PCR. If a copy is unavailable document the following:
 - Type of DNR
 - Date order was issued
 - Name of physician
- If the physician issued the DNR order verbally, document the physician's name and phone number.