

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 require the patient's and physician signature in order to be valid (copy or original).
- If any doubt exists begin CPR immediately. Once initiated, CPR should be continued unless it is determined the patient meets determination of death criteria, a valid DNR form is presented, or the patient meets criteria to discontinue CPR.
- Approved pre-hospital DNR directives include:
 - A Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) program form indicating DNR
 - 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".
 - The patient's physician is present on scene and issues a DNR order, or issues a DNR order verbally over the phone to field personnel.
 - A DNR order signed by a physician in the patient's chart at a licensed health facility
 - 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 form or bracelet/ necklace 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 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.