



- pain as appropriate
2. If CPR has been initiated and a valid exclusion to resuscitation has been subsequently verified, CPR may be discontinued, and medical direction contacted as needed

Treatment and Interventions

1. If there is a valid exclusion to resuscitation and there are signs of life (pulse and respirations), EMS clinicians should provide standard appropriate treatment under existing protocols according to the patient's condition
 - a. If the patient has a MOLST or POLST, it may provide specific guidance on how to proceed in this situation
 - b. Directives should be followed as closely as possible and medical direction contacted as needed
2. The patient should receive full treatment per protocols with the exception of any intervention specifically prohibited in the patient's valid exclusion to resuscitation
3. If for any reason an intervention that is prohibited by an advanced directive is being considered, medical direction should be contacted

Patient Safety Considerations

In cases where the patient's status is unclear and the appropriateness of withholding resuscitation efforts is questioned, EMS personnel should initiate CPR immediately and contact medical direction

Notes/Educational Pearls

Key Considerations

1. If there is a personal physician present at the scene who has an ongoing relationship with the patient, that physician may decide if resuscitation is to be initiated
2. If there is a registered nurse from a home healthcare or hospice agency present at the scene who has an ongoing relationship with the patient and who is operating under orders from the patient's private physician, that nurse (authorized nurse) may decide if resuscitation is to be initiated
3. If the physician or nurse decides resuscitation is to be initiated, usual medical direction procedures will be followed
4. Special Consideration: For scene safety and/or family wishes, the EMS clinician may decide to implement CPR even if all the criteria for death are met

Pertinent Assessment Findings

None noted

Quality Improvement

Associated NEMSIS Protocol(s) (eProtocol.01) *(for additional information, go to www.nemsis.org)*

- 9914201 – Cardiac Arrest - Determination of Death/Withholding Resuscitative Efforts
- 9914169 – Cardiac Arrest - Do Not Resuscitate
- 9914171 – Cardiac Arrest - Special Resuscitation Orders