

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

Indication

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

Follow standard procedures on arrival and assess the patient



If information of a DNR exists

- Responders shall request to see the signed order, form or medallion
- If a DNR is not present at the scene, but a person who is present and can be identified as an immediate family member or spouse requests no resuscitation and has the full agreement of any others who are present on scene, resuscitation may be withheld or stopped if it has already been initiated

If patient with a DNR collapses in public

- Responders will notify the appropriate public safety agency and remain on the scene until their arrival

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

CRITICAL INFORMATION

- DNR order is not valid in suspected homicide or suicide situations
- 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
 - Approved prehospital 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) "Prehospital 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