



MIAMI TOWNSHIP FIRE & EMS CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO *ADMINISTRATIVE PROTOCOLS*



DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDERS IN THE FIELD

Protocol

1. All home care Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders must be dated and signed by the patient and at least two witnesses.
 - A. Home care DNRs shall not expire unless the document specifies a time for expiration. If the patient lacks capacity to make informed health care decisions on the date the DNR would expire, then the DNR shall continue in effect until the patient regains the capacity to make informed health care decisions for himself.
2. DNRs set forth in long-term care facility medical records shall be signed by the attending physician and dated.
 - A. DNRs set forth in long-term care facility medical records shall not expire unless the document specifies a time for expiration. If the patient lacks capacity to make informed health care decisions on the date the DNR would expire, then the DNR shall continue in effect until the patient regains the capacity to make informed health care decisions for himself.
3. In the event a DNR is presented to an EMT, communication with a base hospital physician, EMS medical advisor, family physician or physician on the scene shall be established.
 - A. A DNR may be honored in accordance with the provisions of this protocol where it is determined that the patient is in a terminal condition and the patient is no longer capable of making informed decisions.
 - B. A DNR may not be honored where the patient is pregnant, where withholding CPR would terminate the pregnancy, and where it is probable that the fetus will develop to the point of live birth if treatment is provided.
 - C. If the EMT believes a DNR is valid, there is no need to commence CPR while waiting for physician orders. If the EMT has any doubt, the EMT need not comply with the DNR (and may commence CPR) unless and until a physician has verbally authorized compliance. Such authorization shall be documented by the EMTs in the run report.



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4. In the case of any doubt or reservation as to the validity or authenticity of any DNR, and absent authorization by a base hospital physician, EMS medical advisor, family physician or physician on the scene to withhold CPR, the EMT shall provide CPR to the patient and shall document the reasons for not complying with the DNR.
5. In the event resuscitation is initiated on a patient and then a valid DNR is subsequently identified, resuscitation may be terminated in compliance with that DNR upon specific verbal authorization from a base hospital physician, EMS medical advisor, family physician, or physician on the scene. Documentation shall be made on the run sheet indicating the events that happened set forth in chronological order, including the authorization to stop CPR in the field. In the event a DNR is identified after a patient has been intubated, the tube shall not be removed in the prehospital setting. If the initial resuscitation has restored cardiac rhythm, the patient should be transported to the nearest appropriate medical facility with no further procedures or pharmacological measures undertaken, except by authorization from the base hospital physician, medical advisor, or attending physician. Communication with a physician should be established.
6. A DNR signed by both parents of a minor child or by the spouse of a patient in a terminal condition who is no longer able to make informed decisions, and signed by two witnesses, may be honored.
7. A copy of all DNR paperwork should be copied and attached to the medical record. This paperwork should be attached whether or not the DNR was exercised.
8. The State of Ohio Do Not Resuscitate Comfort Care Program will be adhered to.

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OHIO DNR COMFORT CARE PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

[See state of Ohio Comfort Care Website:](#)

Patient With DNR Comfort Care Program:

<i>WILL NOT RECEIVE</i>	<i>WILL RECEIVE</i>
Administration of chest compression	Suction the airway
Initiation of CPR	Administer oxygen / CPAP
Intubation- ET tube or combitube	Position of comfort
Initiation of cardiac monitoring	Splinting
Administration of cardiac resuscitative drugs	Control bleeding
Defibrillation	Provide pain management
Provision of ventilatory assistance	Provide emotional support
	Contact physician, hospice, or home health care

The following Procedures Will Stop At The Time Of Recognition Of The Patient As A DNR Comfort Care Patient:

1. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
2. Ventilatory assistance.
3. Resuscitation medications.

Patient with DNR Comfort Care Arrest Program Will Receive:

Standard current resuscitative care.
Utilization of current pre-hospital protocols.
Termination of CPR and its components immediately after cardiac or respiratory arrest occurs.



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Defining “Cardiac or Respiratory Arrest”:

1. Cardiac Arrest: Absence of a palpable pulse.
2. Respiratory Arrest: Absence of spontaneous respiration or agonal breathing.

EMS Specific Documentation:

1. Note on the EMS run sheet “DNR Comfort Care Patient.”
2. Patient's name, gender, age and attending physicians.
3. Type of DNR Comfort Care identification seen.
4. Time, date and location of event.
5. Assessment and *care provided*.
6. If revocation was directly witnessed by EMS personnel.