

	COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY	Document #	2085.17
	<u>PROGRAM DOCUMENT:</u> Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)	Draft Date:	11/04/99
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 EMS Medical Director

 EMS Administrator

Purpose:

To establish criteria for Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics in Sacramento County to determine appropriateness of either:

- A. Withholding resuscitative measures in accordance with the patient's wishes; or
- B. To utilize direct medical oversight for pronouncement of victims of cardiac arrest while in the prehospital setting.

Authority:

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

Definitions:

- A. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) shall apply to EMTs and Paramedics.
- B. Do not resuscitate (DNR) means the patient will not receive chest compressions, defibrillation, assisted ventilation, endotracheal intubation, or cardiotoxic medications. This does not exclude other treatment, especially those treatments directed to pain and comfort of the patient.
- C. The State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) approved form Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) is recommended for documenting does not resuscitate orders.
- D. DNR Medallion: MedicAlert® medallion, which states "Do Not Resuscitate - EMS", (or similar medallion as approved by the EMSA).
- E. **Selective Treatment- (As defined in the POLST form) "Goal of treating medical conditions while avoiding burdensome measures. In addition to treatment described in Comfort-Focused Treatment, use medical treatment, IV antibiotics, and IV fluids as indicated. Do not intubate. May use non-invasive positive airway pressure. Generally avoid intensive care." Partial DNR orders require consult with medical oversight, unless a completed POLST form is present with the patient. If a POLST form is present, the EMT or Paramedic is to follow the POLST form guidelines. If questions remain, consult with medical oversight as indicated.**
- F. **Comfort-Focused Treatment – (as defined in the POLST form) "primary goal of maximizing comfort. Relieve pain and suffering with medication by any route as needed; use oxygen, suctioning, and manual treatment of airway obstruction. Do not use treatments listed in Full and Selective Treatment unless consistent with comfort goal. Request transfer to hospital only if comfort needs cannot be met in current location"**

Protocol:

- A. All patients who do not meet the "determination of death criteria" as outlined in Sacramento County Emergency Medical Services Agency policy #2033 shall be resuscitated unless the EMT or Paramedic is presented with:
 - 1. An EMSA POLST form
 - 2. A written, signed order or electronic order in the patient's medical record
 - 3. A completed Prehospital DNR Request Form stating, "Do Not Resuscitate," "No Code," or "No CPR"
 - 4. A written order stating, "Do Not Resuscitate," "No Code," or "No CPR" signed by a physician, with the patient's name and date the order was signed;
 - 5. A written Advance Health Care Directive document or wallet card, including the DNR portion of a "Living Will" or equivalent, identifying the designated agent who declines resuscitation on behalf of the patient. Resuscitation attempts shall not be delayed by attempts to contact the designated agent
 - 6. The patient is wearing a DNR medallion

- B. An EMT or Paramedic may discontinue resuscitation if after the resuscitation was instituted and the following is presented:
 - 1. A EMSA POLST form
 - 2. A written, signed order or electronic order in the patient's medical record;
 - 3. A completed Prehospital DNR Request Form stating, "Do Not Resuscitate," "No Code," or "No CPR"
 - 4. A written order stating, "Do Not Resuscitate," "No Code," or "No CPR" signed by a physician, a nurse practitioner or physician assistant, acting under the direct supervision of the physician, with the patient's name and date the order was signed
 - 5. A written Advance Health Care Directive document or wallet card, including the DNR portion of a "Living Will" or equivalent, identifying the designated agent who declines continued resuscitation on behalf of the patient
 - 6. The patient is wearing a DNR medallion

- C. If the patient is conscious and states he/she wishes resuscitative measures, the DNR order shall be ignored.

- D. The presence of a DNR order, the physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant's name signing the order and the date of the order is to be documented on the Patient Care Report (EMS Form).

- E. The DNR form (original or copy), DNR medallion, or a copy of the valid DNR order from the patient's medical record shall be taken with the patient.

- F. **For DNR patients with POLST forms, medics shall follow the medical interventions indicated on the POLST form. Utilize direct medical oversight for any questions. If there are any questions, provide for patient comfort including basic life support cardiopulmonary resuscitation, if indicated, and utilize direct medical oversight.**

- G. **DNR patients with POLST forms which indicate "Selective treatment, request medical transfer only if comfort needs cannot be met at current location" or "Comfort-focused treatment" may qualify for no transportation if all of the following apply:**

1. After assessment, the medic determines that the patient's comfort needs are being met at their current location.
2. The patient or DPOA agree that the patient's needs are being met at their current location.
3. Discussion with direct medical control indicates that the patient's comfort needs are being met at their current location.

H. In the event the patient expires enroute, continue to the destination hospital.

References:

[EMSA guidelines for EMS Personnel regarding DNR, Directive Number #311, 6th revision, dated October 2018](#)

[EMSA POLST Form #111B \(Effective 04/01/2017\)](#)

[Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Do Not Resuscitate \(DNR\) Form](#)

California Probate Code Division 4.7, Part 2