

Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures Emergency Operations	Code: E-XII-5
Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)	
Chpt: XII EMS	Revised: 7/1/12 Pages: 4

I. PURPOSE

A. To establish criteria for a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order, and to thereby permit EMS providers to withhold resuscitative measures from patients in accordance with their wishes.

II. AUTHORITY

A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1798.

B. California EMS Authority Guideline #111;
<http://www.emsa.ca.gov/pubs/docs/EMSA111DNRGuidelines.doc>

C. Cal. Const., Art. 1&1; U.S. Const., 5th and 9th Amends.

D. Health and Safety Code, Division 7, Section 7186.

E. Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 70707 (6), and Section 70707(a) (4)

F. Santa Barbara County EMS Agency Policy number 508

G. California Courts fully support the right of individuals to determine the course of their own health care:

1. Bouvia v. Superior Court 179 Cal. App 3d 1127.
2. Bartling v. Superior Court 163 Cal. App 3d 186, 195.
3. Barber v. Superior Court 147 Cal. App 3d 1006.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. EMS providers are all levels of EMT including EMT-1, EMT-advanced or Optional skills and EMT-Paramedic.

B. Resuscitation:

1. Medical interventions whose purpose is to restore cardiac or respiratory activity, and which are listed here:

- a) External cardiac compression (chest compressions).
- b) Defibrillation.
- c) Tracheal intubation.

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- d) Assisted ventilation.
- e) Administration of cardio tonic medication.

C. DNR Medallion:

1. A permanently imprinted insignia, worn by a patient that had been manufactured and distributed by an organization approved by the Emergency Medical Services Authority.

D. DNR Order:

1. An order to withhold resuscitation. A DNR Order shall be considered operative only under the following circumstances

- a) A fully executed original or photocopy of the “Emergency Medical Services Prehospital DNR Form” has been read and reviewed on scene by the EMS provider;
- b) The patient is wearing a DNR Medallion;
- c) California Medical Association Advanced Health Care Directive
- d) A fully executed California Durable Power of Attorney For Health Care (DPAHC) form is seen by the EMS provider a health care agent designated therein is present, and that agent requests that resuscitation not be done;
- e) A fully executed Natural Death Act Declaration has been read and reviewed on scene by the EMS provider; or
- f) For patients who are in a licensed health care facility, or who are being transferred between licensed health care facilities, a written document in the patient’s permanent medical record containing the statement “Do Not Resuscitate”, “No Code,” or “No CPR,” has been seen by the EMS provider. A witness from the healthcare facility must verbally document the authenticity of this document.

g) A fully executed original or photocopy of the “Physicians Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST)” as defined in California Probate Code, Division 4.7 (Health Care Decisions Law), has been read and reviewed on scene by the EMS provider.

“California Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (DPAHC)”: as defined in the California Civil Code, Sections 2410-2444.

“Natural Death Act Declaration”: As defined in the Natural Death Act of California, Health and Safety Code, Sections 7185-7195

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“Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Form”.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. All patients require an immediate medical evaluation.

B. Correct identification of the patient is crucial in this process. If not wearing a DNR Medallion, the patient must be positively identified as the person named in the DNR Order. This will normally require either the presence of a witness or an identification band.

C. When a DNR Order is operative, if the patient has no pulse and is apneic, resuscitation shall be withheld or discontinued. The patient is to receive full treatment other than resuscitation (e.g., for airway obstruction, pain, dyspnea, hemorrhage, etc.)

D. A DNR Order shall be considered null and void under any of the following circumstances:

1. The patient is conscious and states that he or she wishes resuscitation.
2. There is objection or disagreement by a family member or caretaker.
3. There is question as to the validity of the DNR Order.

Should any of these circumstances occur, appropriate treatment should continue or immediately commence, including resuscitation if necessary; base hospital contact to be made appropriate.

E. Other advance directives, such informal “living wills” or written instructions without an agent in the California Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, may be encountered. Should this occur, base hospital contact must be made as soon as practical.

F. Immediate base hospital contact is strongly encouraged should there be any questions regarding any aspect of the care of the patient.

G. If a DPAHC health care agent requests that resuscitation not be done, the EMS provider shall inform the agent of the consequences of the request. The agent shall also be asked to document the request by signing the “Refusal of Service” section of the Prehospital Care Report (PCR).

V. DOCUMENTATION

A. For all cases in which a patient has been treated under a DNR Order, the following documentation is required by the EMS provider:

1. In the narrative section of the PCR:

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- a) Name of the patient's physician signing the DNR Order.
- b) Date the DNR was signed.
- c) Type of DNR Order (DNR Medallion, Prehospital DNR Form, written order in a licensed health care facility, DPAHC, Natural Death Act Declaration).
- d) If the decision to withhold or terminate resuscitative measures was made by an EMS provider, his/her name and a certificate number.

B. For all cases which occur within a licensed health care facility, in addition to above, the report shall include, if the DNR Order was established by a written order in the patient's medical record, the name of the physician and the witness to that order.