

Durable DNR

Emergency regulations governing the Durable Do Not Resuscitate (DDNR) program, adopted by the Virginia State Board of Health, became effective January 3, 2000. The emergency regulations amend the EMS Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) regulations and establish a DDNR order that follows the patient throughout the entire health care setting. Once issued by a physician for his patient, the DDNR Order applies wherever that patient may be – home, EMS vehicle, hospital, nursing home, adult care residence or other health care facility.

DDNR Orders can now be written for anyone, regardless of health condition or age. Inclusion of minors is a significant change in the emergency DDNR Order. Durable DNR Orders can be recognized by qualified EMS personnel at all times and in all settings. Valid EMS DNR Orders are considered Durable DNR Orders and do not expire on or after July 2, 1998. Qualified EMS personnel may honor written DNR Orders written for patient in a licensed health care facility.

The responding EMS provider should:

1. Perform routine patient assessment and resuscitation or intervention until it is confirmed that the patient has either a Virginia Durable DNR Order or the EMS DNR Order, issued on or after July 2, 1998.
2. Request the original Virginia Durable DNR Form or the EMS DNR Order or look for either form at patient's bedside, on the back of the patient's bedroom door, on the refrigerator or in the patient's wallet. If either of these forms has been defaced, consider the DNR Order to be invalid.
3. Make a good faith effort to verify identity of the patient through family, friends, and other health care personnel present or photo ID (such as a driver's license).
4. Be aware that a Virginia Durable DNR Form can be revoked by the following persons:
 - a. The patient, by destroying the Virginia Durable DNR Form or EMS DNR Form or by verbally withdrawing consent to the order.
 - b. The person authorized to consent on the patient's behalf.
 - c. A physician who is physically present at the patient's side.
5. Observe standard Durable DNR or EMS DNR orders:

These comforting interventions are encouraged:

- Airway (excluding intubation or advanced airway management)
- Suction
- Supplemental oxygen delivery devices
- Pain medications or intravenous fluids
- Bleeding control
- Patient positioning
- Other therapies deemed necessary to provide comfort care or alleviate pain

Contact patient's physician or On-Line Medical Direction if questions or problems arise.

Durable DNR (continued)

These Resuscitative measures should be avoided:

Withhold or withdraw if resuscitation has begun prior to confirmation of Virginia Durable DNR status:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Endotracheal intubation or other advanced airway management
- Artificial ventilation
- Defibrillation
- Cardiac resuscitation medications
- Continuation of related procedures, as prescribed by the patient's physician or medical protocols

6. Document the call:
 - a. Use the standard Pre-Hospital patient Care Report (PPCR) or agency run report to document which identification was used to confirm DNR status: Virginia Durable DNR Order Form, approved alternate form of identification, EMS DNR Order Form or other DNR form.
 - b. Indicate the Virginia Durable DNR Order Form number and the patient's attending physician's name.
 - c. Comfort the family if the patient has expired on arrival and follow agency's procedure for death at home.
 - d. Complete a PPCR or the agency run report.