



Health & Safety Alert #29-11-02

DNR Orders

This alert is to inform families and people who work in this field about issues that impact the health and safety of people for whom we provide services.

DNR Comfort Care Program

Situation: The ODMRDD Mortality Review Committee has noted that several individuals chose to have a “do not resuscitate” order and thus avoid aggressive medical procedures as they die. The purpose of this information notice is to clarify the DNR Comfort Care Program and to aid individuals in the distinction between DNR Comfort Care and DNR Comfort Care-Arrest. *Individuals and guardians must be fully informed and involved in the process of deciding to have a DNR order.*

Alert: The DNR Comfort Care Program outlines a standardized protocol for the withholding of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The DNR Comfort Care protocol is very specific in terms of what treatment is to be given and what treatment is to be withheld.

Important points to remember about the DNR process in the DNR Comfort Care Program:

- DNR Comfort Care-Arrest (DNRCC-A) status is for persons who still want aggressive treatment of their illness but have made the decision that if they reach a point of stopping breathing (respiratory arrest) or not having a pulse (cardiac arrest) they want all resuscitative efforts stopped. Prior to a respiratory arrest or cardiac arrest, the person receives resuscitation per existing EMS or facility protocol.
- DNR Comfort Care (DNRCC) status is for persons who have made the decision not to seek aggressive management of their disease. Their wish is to have the treatment plan geared to comfort measures only. This is for when all medical treatments have been exhausted or are considered futile and no hope of recovery exists (at the end-stages of disease processes). None of the following components of CPR are to be provided: administration of chest compressions; insertion of artificial airway; administration of resuscitative drugs; defibrillation/cardioversion; provision of respiratory assistance; initiation of resuscitative intravenous line; initiation of cardiac monitoring.

DNR Comfort Care and DNR Comfort Care-Arrest forms and the Ohio Administrative Rules regarding the DNR Comfort Care Program are available on the Ohio Department of Health DNR Comfort Care Web Site

Forms

<http://www.odh.state.oh.us/forms/formfinder.aspx>

Administrative Rules

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/rules/final/f3701-62.aspx>

For questions or comments regarding the above Alert, please contact the MUI/Registry Unit at (614) 995-3810.