

Do Not Resuscitate Orders

Vermont EMS District 6 Clinical Protocol # 2002-8.1, Do Not Initiate Resuscitation, outlines policy and procedures to guide the care of the patient with a DNR order.

Occasionally questions have arisen about what exactly constitutes a valid DNR order.

There are two forms of DNR order. The first is the standard Do Not Resuscitate Order sheet, which is in common use throughout the state of Vermont. Patients who are being cared for at home who are on DNR status should have a copy of this form available to show EMS personnel. Physician practices as well as Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice use this form. It was developed primarily for the use of EMS personnel responding to the scene. An example is enclosed.

Patients who are in hospitals or nursing homes may have either a DNR Order sheet as described above, or they may have their DNR status ordered on a Physician's Orders sheet. An example of this sheet is also enclosed. For patients being transferred from a hospital or nursing home, a DNR order on a Physician's Orders sheet signed by the patient's physician is as valid as the DNR Order sheet.

In either case, it is necessary that the patient's name and DOB as well as the physician's signature be present on the orders, and that the patient to whom the orders apply be accurately identified.

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