

Standard Operating Procedure DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR) LIVING WILLS	PEORIA FIRE-MEDICAL DEPARTMENT EMS 400.20 Rev. 05/17/2010 Page 1 of 2
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PURPOSE

Describe the process by which Peoria Fire Department personnel will execute the process of dealing with living wills and prehospital medical care directives. Specifically, this policy will outline the procedures surrounding "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) patients in the field.

PROCEDURE

The first arriving company needs to assess the patient and make a reasonable effort to obtain information about a Prehospital Medical Care Directive that may exist.

Patients that do not wish to be resuscitated must have the following documents in their possession in order to withhold treatment in accordance with the DNR:

Pre-hospital Medical Care Directive will be printed on an Orange background and may be either letter or wallet size. This document will include biographical information about the patient and signatures of the patient's licensed health care provider and a witness.

A hospital-type bracelet may be worn on either the wrist or ankle and identifies the patient as having executed a Prehospital Medical Care Directive.

This will be on an orange background and will state in bold lettering "Do Not Resuscitate" and will contain the patient and physician's name. The orange bracelet is a signal that a Prehospital Medical Care Directive exists.

Upon finding a patient wearing such a bracelet, personnel should make a reasonable effort if the circumstances permit to locate a Prehospital Medical Care Directive.

If a Pre-hospital Medical Care Directive is not found or is absent, or if the patient or the patient's surrogate now wishes the patient to be resuscitated, then full resuscitative efforts and advanced life support will be instituted.

The directive must include which treatments the patient wants to have withheld (chest compression, defibrillation, assisted ventilation, intubation, and advanced life support Medication).

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The Pre-hospital Medical Care Directive lists five treatment modalities that the patient may select to be withheld. The following is a list of the modalities:

- Chest compression
- Defibrillation
- Assisted ventilation
- Intubation
- Advanced Life Support Medications

When a basic life support (BLS) crew responds to an emergency medical incident and validation of the DNR order is made and the patient is without vital signs, the crew must continue LS response for documentation of the absence of a cardiac rhythm.

If ALS is on the scene and validation is made:

1. A patch will be made to the appropriate base hospital.
2. Notify the Alarm Room to contact the Police Department.
3. Go available after the scene is turned over to the arriving police department representative.
4. ALS and BLS crews need to make a reasonable effort to obtain the Prehospital Medical Care Directive and include it with their documentation.
5. In the event that any other documents are presented at the scene (living wills or medical power of attorney), emergency medical care needs to be initiated until on-line medical control is consulted.
6. If at-any time there is a lack of evidence of documentation, any doubt surrounding the incident or the validity of the Prehospital Medical Care Directive, then full resuscitative efforts should be initiated. On-line medical control still needs to be established.



Approved: _____ 6/17/2010 _____
 Thomas E. Solberg, Fire Chief Date