

Act 59
State of Pennsylvania

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Law

Based on Information Provided by
PA Department of Health

Overview

- On July 12, 2002, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed ACT 59 of 2002, the Do Not Resuscitate Act (DNR Act).
- This law pertains to Out-Of-Hospital DNR orders.

Definitions

- **Out-Of-Hospital DNR order:**
 - A written order, on a form approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, that is issued by an attending physician and directs EMS providers to withhold CPR and other life-sustaining treatment from the patient in the event of cardiac and/or respiratory arrest
- **Out-Of-Hospital DNR Patient:**
 - A patient for whom an attending physician has issued an Out-Of-Hospital DNR order

What are the differences?

- Advance Directive for Health Care Act:
 - Enacted April 16, 1992
 - Encompasses resuscitation criteria and other measures (I.w. feeding tubes, ventilators, etc.)
 - Medical Command Physician (MCP) must be contacted to allow EMS provider to honor directive
- Out-Of-Hospital DNR Act:
 - Enacted July 19, 2002
 - Encompasses only resuscitation measures
 - Empowers EMS personnel to withhold CPR in the out of-hospital setting without contacting MCP
 - Defines formats of order – paper, necklace or bracelet
 - Outlines protection for individuals using AED through the Good Samaritan Law

Out-Of-Hospital DNRs

- EMS provider can withhold CPR upon observing Out-Of-Hospital DNR order, bracelet, or necklace displayed with the the patient
- Not required to contact Medical Command
- EMS personnel are authorized to comply with an Out-Of-Hospital DNR order in any setting

Obtaining an Out-Of-Hospital DNR Order

- Patient must sign the order in the presence of the attending physician (unless the order is obtained by the surrogate)
- By signing the order the patient indicates that they are waiving life-sustaining treatment by EMS personnel in the event of a cardiac and/or respiratory arrest

Ordering DNR Supplies

- Physician practices can order the following through the PA Dept. of Health authorized distributor:
 - DNR Necklace and 30” Bead Chains
 - DNR ID Bracelet
 - DNR Order Forms

Contact:

Philip Levin Company

3301-C Hoffman St.

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Phone 717-233-8844

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- For additional information on Act 59 see the following web site
 - www.health.state.pa.us