

**SILVER CROSS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM****TITLE:** DNR/ POLST ADVANCED DIRECTIVE**POLICY:** IDPH Code 515.380 and EMS Region VII DNR POLST Policy

Section	EMS REGION VII		
<b>Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Practitioner Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST)</b>	Issued	09/1997	
	Revised	05/2022	
	Pages	2	

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) refers to the withholding of CPR, electrical defibrillation\ synchronized cardioversion or electrical pacemaker, unless otherwise stated in the DNR order. The policy shall include, but not be limited to, specific procedures and protocols for cardiac arrest\DNR situations arising in long-term care facilities, with hospice and home care patients, and with patients who arrest during interhospital transfers or transportation to or from home.

- I. Prehospital care that should be performed in conjunction with a valid DNR order:
  - A. Provide comfort, care, and compassion for the patient.
  - B. Treat an acute airway obstruction, even if intubation is required.
  - C. Treat problems NOT specifically listed (such as Atropine for symptomatic bradycardia (with a pulse), 50% dextrose for hypoglycemia, etc.).
  
- II. Withholding of CPR will be considered applicable in situations where obvious signs of biological death are present (e.g. decapitation, rigor mortis without profound hypothermia, dependent lividity, decomposition, mummification, etc.) or the patient has been declared dead by the coroner/medical examiner or patient's physician.
  - A. Confirmation of a Triple Zero will be done through contact with the Resource Hospital Emergency Department. Transmission of ECG data will be done at the discretion of the ED Physician or ECRN.
  - B. Confirmation of a Triple Zero is not to be interpreted as a pronouncement of death, but only a determination that resuscitative measures are unnecessary and inappropriate.
  - C. Transport of this patient is not necessary, but proper notification of the coroner or funeral home is required.
  - D. Patient has been declared dead by coroner, physician, or medical examiner, and shall include appropriate signature.
  
- III. DNR / POLST

A DNR/POLST order is an advanced directive that says that cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) cannot be used if heart and/or breathing stops; it can also be used to record desires for life-sustaining treatment. The Department of Public Health has published a Uniform DNR/POLST order.

The Uniform DNR/POLST Order requires the patient's signature or that of an authorized legal representative (legal guardian, health care power of attorney, or health care surrogate), as well as the signature of an attending practitioner.

A course of action prescribed by a physician to withhold resuscitative measures on a victim of a witnessed or unwitnessed cardiac arrest.

- A. A valid DNR order will be a written document, which has not been revoked, containing at least the following information, on a form provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health. If the form is reproduced, brightly colored paper shall be used. Other DNR orders will be recognized also if the following information is included:
- a. Name of patient
  - b. Name and signature of attending physician
  - c. Effective date
  - d. The words "Do Not Resuscitate"
  - e. Evidence of consent (any of the following)
    - Signature of patient, or
    - Signature of legal guardian, or
    - Signature of durable power of attorney for health care agent, or
    - Signature of surrogate decision-maker as defined by the IHC (Illinois Health Care) Surrogate Act.
- B. A living will by itself cannot be recognized by prehospital care providers.
- C. Prehospital personnel must make a reasonable attempt to verify the identity of the patient named in a valid DNR/POLST order.
- D. The Emergency Department must be notified in all situations when a DNR/POLST order is involved. Transmission of ECG data will be at the discretion of the physician or ECRN.
- E. All Region VII EMS personnel will be authorized to accept a DNR order, which meets the criteria for validity.
- F. The original DNR/POLST order, or a copy, should be attached to the Ambulance Run Report Form.
- G. After responding to a scene, reasonable efforts should be made by prehospital personnel to determine if a valid DNR order exists for registered hospice or home care patients, patients of long term care facilities, or other patients who are known to suffer from a terminal illness.
- H. If a valid DNR/POLST order is not present then patient care should proceed in accordance with the EMS Region VII Standing Medical Orders.

DNR and the IDPH Uniform POLST form shall be referenced/printed from the IDPH website:  
<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/health-care-regulation/nursing-homes/advance-directives.html>

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