

TITLE: **DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDERS**

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Director

Medical Director

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SUPERSEDES:

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**DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDERS**

I. AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.220 and 1798;  
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Sections 100107 and 100146; and State  
Emergency Medical Services Authority Guideline 111.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)" means no chest compression, no assisted ventilations, no defibrillation, no intubation and no cardiotoxic medications.
- B. "Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel" means those persons who have been certified as qualified to provide prehospital emergency medical care pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5.
- C. A Valid DNR Order@ means a completed California Emergency Medical Services Authority and the California Medical Association approved DNR form signed and dated by the patient's physician, a Medic Alert bracelet inscribed "Do Not Resuscitate EMS", or a written, signed order in the patient's medical record.

III. PURPOSE

To establish criteria for prehospital emergency medical care personnel working within the jurisdiction of the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency to easily recognize and follow a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) wish previously established by a patient.

IV. POLICY

- A. All patients whose assessment does not reveal "obvious death" as defined in Policy 570.20

**Determination of Death** shall be treated in accordance with treatment guidelines, unless the prehospital emergency medical care personnel are presented with a valid DNR order.

V. Procedure

- A. When prehospital emergency medical care personnel are presented with a valid DNR order, no resuscitative measures shall be carried out including; placing an automatic or semi-automatic defibrillator on the patient. Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel shall provide the patient with appropriate treatment other than resuscitative measures. Appropriate treatment may include but is not limited to:
  - 1. Oxygen administration.
  - 2. Treatment of hemorrhage.
  - 3. Treatment for pain.
  - 4. Treatment of airway obstruction.
  - 5. Transport to a receiving facility.
- B. If the patient is conscious and states he/she wishes resuscitative measures, the DNR order shall be ignored.
- C. If a patient with a valid "DNR" order is unconscious and family members request resuscitative measures prehospital emergency medical care personnel should initiate basic life support resuscitative measures, treating the patient in accordance with applicable treatment guidelines and immediately contact a Base Hospital for further instructions.
- D. The non-obvious death of a patient with a valid DNR order shall be determined in accordance with policy 570.20 **DETERMINATION OF DEATH**, with the exception that resuscitative measures are not to be employed. If a determination of death is made while enroute, transport of the body should continue to the original receiving facility.
- E. If patient transport is undertaken, the DNR order is to be taken with the patient to the receiving facility.
- F. DNR orders are to be honored during transport.
- G. The presence of a "DNR" order is to be documented on the Prehospital Report Form.