

Appendix E

Durable DNR FACT SHEET

Information provided by the Virginia Office of EMS

Durable DNR Forms are NOT intended for use in admission or welcome packages. The Durable DNR Form shall be treated no differently than a blank prescription pad.

Virginia EMTs & Paramedics Can Honor the Following Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders

1. **Virginia Durable Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders** are the only do not resuscitate form issued by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Durable DNR Orders do not expire. They remain in effect until the patient or someone designated to act on the patient's behalf revokes the order. If the Virginia Durable DNR Order form is used in a health care facility, you must take the original order when you transport a patient. **Virginia EMS providers CANNOT honor a Living Will or a DNR from another state.**

2. **“Other” DNR Orders are defined as an original written physician's order. EMTs and Paramedics can honor an original physician's order only when the patient is in a licensed health care facility.** The physician's order must NOT be a photocopy and requires the same information that is on the yellow state DNR form. This includes an order by a physician who has a bona fide physician/patient relationship. This other DNR Order must contain the patient's full legal name, the physician's signature and the date issued. **The EMTs or Paramedics do NOT need to take this “Other” DNR order with them when transporting a patient from one health care facility to another.** However, they must document in writing on their pre-hospital patient care report (PPCR) that they were shown a valid, original DNR order.

Nursing Homes and Hospices Do Not Have to Use the Yellow Durable DNR Form

1. **The Virginia Durable DNR Form is used primarily by EMS providers during prehospital events** (events occurring outside of licensed medical facilities). When responding to a call from a nursing home or hospice, the EMS provider only needs to be shown an **original** Do Not Resuscitate Order in a patient's chart. This written directive must be signed by the patient's doctor and dated. It can be as simple as the doctor writing it on his prescription pad. The EMS provider will indicate on his Pre-Hospital Patient Call Report form that he was shown a DNR order or told by the patient's doctor that the patient has one.

2. **Approved Durable DNR bracelets or necklaces** can be honored in place of the Virginia Durable DNR Order form by EMS providers. After obtaining a Durable DNR order form that was signed by his/her physician, a patient can purchase a Virginia Durable DNR bracelet or necklace from one of the below approved vendors. The Office of EMS does NOT sell them. The patient must furnish the vendor a copy of their Virginia Durable DNR Order form.

Oneida Nameplate Company
Phone: 1 877 925-2586
E-mail: oneidanp@mwci.net

Appomattox Drug Store
Phone: 1 800-330-7225

If the patient is wearing a Virginia Durable DNR bracelet or necklace, EMTs and Paramedics DO NOT have to see the Durable DNR Order form.

3. An EMT or Paramedic can honor a direct order by a physician (verbal order), who is present and in attendance of a patient at the time of death

Who Can Request Durable Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Forms

1. Durable DNR Forms are available only to physicians and to any facility, program or organization operated or licensed by the Board of Health or by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services or operated, licensed or owned by another state agency. The Virginia Department of Health cannot issue a Durable DNR Order Form directly to a patient. It can only be issued by a physician to a patient with whom there is a bona fide physician/patient relationship. It is this physician's responsibility to discuss information on the Durable DNR Form with the patient or the person authorized to consent on the patient's behalf. **Durable DNR Forms are NOT intended for use in admission or welcome packages so please do not include them in these.**

How to Order Durable DNR Forms

To order Durable DNR forms, fax your request, on Physician or Health Care Agency's letterhead or a Durable DNR request form, to the Office of EMS at **804 864-7580**. Orders cannot be filled over the telephone. **(Requests for quantities greater than 100 may require proof of need)**

For more information on the Virginia Durable DNR Order program, visit the Office of EMS Web site: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems/ddnr/ddnr.asp>

This Web site includes:

1. DDNR Fact Sheet
2. How to Fill Out the Durable Do Not Resuscitate Form
3. How to Request Durable Do Not Resuscitate Forms
4. How to Purchase DDNR Bracelets and Necklaces
5. DDNR Sample form (pdf)
6. Virginia Durable DNR Request Form

Applicable Virginia State Statutes:

§ 54.1-2987.1. Durable Do Not Resuscitate Orders.

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+54.1-2987>

§ 54.1-2982. Definitions.

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+54.1-2982>

§ 54.1-2983. Procedure for making advance directive; notice to physician.

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+54.1-2983>

§ 54.1-2986. Procedure in absence of an advance directive; procedure for advance directive

without agent; no presumption; persons who may authorize treatment for patients incapable of informed decisions; applicability restricted to non protesting patients.

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+54.1-2986>

Virginia's do not resuscitate order, passed by the Virginia General Assembly, allows emergency medical services providers to honor a patient's request for humane comfort measures, while avoiding resuscitation in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest. Emergency Durable DNR Regulations, passed in 1999, became final on March 27, 2002. Anyone, including minors, is eligible for a Virginia Durable DNR Order