



California
Department of
Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

June 15, 2005

AFL 05-24

TO: ALL LONG TERM CARE HEALTH FACILITIES

SUBJECT: PRE-HOSPITAL DO NOT RESUSCITATE FORMS

Enclosed please find important information from the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) regarding the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Pre-hospital Do Not Resuscitate forms (DNR). This information does not represent new standards or procedures. It is being provided to long term care facilities to promote awareness regarding the availability of this state-wide form. The EMS Pre-hospital DNR form has been developed by EMSA in collaboration with the California Medical Association and EMS providers and is designed to instruct EMS providers to forgo resuscitation efforts in the event of a patient's cardiopulmonary arrest while in a pre-hospital setting such as in a long term care facility or while on transport to or from a facility. It does not take the place of the facility's own system for documenting the DNR wishes of an individual.

The Department of Health Services, Licensing and Certification program has received recent reports that some long term care facilities have presented improper DNR documents to EMS teams who have responded to a 911 call for their resident. A DNR form that is not legally acceptable or readily recognizable by the paramedic or Emergency Medical Technician results in confusion, and when in doubt as to the legality of the document, emergency response professionals have been taught to err on the side of giving care to the patient. The use of the EMS Pre-hospital DNR Form is encouraged to avoid this kind of confusion, and thereby ensure that the resident's wishes are honored in pre-hospital situations.

For more information, and copies of the EMS Pre-hospital DNR Form, please go to the EMSA website at: www.emsa.ca.gov. The form is available in either PDF or Word format and is free of charge.

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For questions regarding this letter, please contact Jocelyn Montgomery, Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, Licensing and Certification at (916) 552- 9365 or jmontgo2@dhs.ca.gov.

Sincerely
Original Signed by Brenda G. Klutz

Brenda Klutz
Deputy Director

Attachment:

cc: California Emergency Medical Services Authority
1930 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Association of Health Facilities
2201 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95816-4922