

## ***Durable Do Not Resuscitate (DDNR) FACT SHEET***

### **Virginia Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services**

#### **Information for the public related to obtaining a DDNR order/form:**

- Who Can Obtain a Durable Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order?

Persons desiring to have a DDNR order in place need to speak with a physician that they have a “bona-fide” patient-physician relationship with, such as your primary care physician. A nurse practitioner (NP) may also write a DDNR order following the same rules that apply when prescribing other treatments.

If the person, for whom a DDNR order is sought, is a minor or is otherwise incapable of making an informed decision regarding consent for such an order, the person authorized to consent on the person's behalf may initiate a DDNR order with the person's physician.

#### **Information and Responsibilities for Health Care Providers Issuing (DNR) orders:**

- The use of the State's DDNR form is encouraged for uniformity throughout the health care continuum.
- The State's DDNR form can be honored by qualified health care personnel in any setting.
- Patients that will not be within a qualified health care facility (i.e. at home) must have an authorized State DDNR form or alternate DDNR jewelry in order for the DDNR to be honored.
- “Other DNR” orders can be honored anytime that a person is within a qualified health care facility or during transport between health care facilities when attended by qualified health care personnel (i.e. by ambulance.)
- If the option of a DDNR is agreed upon, the physician shall have the following responsibilities:
  - Explain when the DDNR order is valid;
  - Explain how to and who may revoke the DDNR;
  - Document the patient's full legal name;
  - Document the date the DDNR was executed;
  - Obtain the patient's signature or the person who is authorized to consent on behalf of the patient;
  - The physician's printed name and signature must be included;
  - Note a valid contact number for the physician signing the DDNR order.

#### **Information for Virginia Certified Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Providers:**

- Do EMS Providers need to see an original Durable DNR or Other DNR Order?

NO; as of July 21, 2011 legible copies of a DDNR order may be accepted by qualified health care providers

- What types of DDNR forms or orders can be honored by EMS providers?
  - The VDH/OEMS “State” DDNR form (old or new) can be honored at any time.
  - Authorized “Alternate DDNR Jewelry” can be honored at any time, but it must contain the prescribed information.

- A verbal order from a physician can be honored by a certified EMS provider. The verbal order may be by a physician who is physically present and willing to assume responsibility or from on-line medical control.
- “Other” DNR Orders: this is the term used to define a physician’s written DNR order when it is in a format other than the State form. “Other” DNR Orders should be honored by EMS providers’ when the patient is within a license health care facility or being transported between health care facilities if the DNR includes the same information as required for DDNR orders, although a patient/authorized representative need not sign the order. Examples of “Other” DNR orders include facility developed DNR forms, POST forms, or other documents that contain the equivalent information as the State form.

### **How to Download the DDNR and Find Additional Information on the DDNR program:**

As of July 21, 2011 the State DDNR form has been changed to a downloadable document that can be found on-line on the VDH/OEMS website at [Durable Do Not Resuscitate Program – Emergency Medical Services](#).

- The new downloadable DDNR form:
  - The revised DDNR form can be printed on any color paper (white paper printed on a color printer is the recommended.)
  - Health care providers may honor a legible copy of any of the three paged revised DDNR form. The patient copy, medical record copy, or DDNR jewelry copy all may be honored.
  - It is recommended that all photocopies of DDNR forms, of any type, be of actual size
- The previous goldenrod colored State DDNR form:
  - May still be honored no matter when it was dated;
  - Physicians may still complete the goldenrod State DDNR forms until supplies are exhausted;
  - Photocopies of completed goldenrod colored State DDNR form may be honored indefinitely.

This Web site includes:

- The downloadable DDNR form
- DDNR Fact Sheet
- How to Fill Out the Durable Do Not Resuscitate Form
- How to Purchase DDNR Bracelets and Necklaces
- The applicable Virginia laws (Code of Virginia) related to DDNR
- Virginia Durable DNR Regulations

For technical assistance downloading the form you may contact Support at the Office of Emergency Medical Services at (804)888-9149 or [support@OEMSSupport.kayako.com](mailto:support@OEMSSupport.kayako.com) or write 1041 Technology Park Drive, Glen Allen, Virginia 23059.

