

Board of Medicine

Authority of Physician Assistants to write Do Not Resuscitate Orders (DNR Orders)

In the Health Care Decisions Act (§ 54.1-2981 et seq. of the Code of Virginia), § 54.1-2987.1 provides that a Durable Do Not Resuscitate Order may be issued by a physician. § 54.1-2952.2 provides that, “Whenever any law or regulation requires a signature...by a physician, it shall be deemed to include a signature...by a physician assistant.”

Therefore, the Board of Medicine concurs that licensed physician assistants have the statutory and regulatory authority to write Do Not Resuscitate Orders in accordance with §§ 54.1-2952.2 and 54.1-2987.1 of the Code of Virginia and 18VAC85-50-101 of the Virginia Administrative Code.

The authority for a physician assistant to write DNR orders must be included in the written protocol as a delegated act by the supervising physician and must be performed in consultation with the physician.