

EAST LIVERPOOL CITY HOSPITAL  
PATIENT CARE POLICY

SUBJECT: Do Not Resuscitate Comfort Care (DNRCC) Protocol

PURPOSE: In the absence of orders to the contrary all patients will be considered candidates for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). In accordance with Ohio House Bill 354, physician's verbal or written DNRCC orders or current DNRCC Identification establishing the patient's DNR wishes will be honored and CPR will not be performed.

- PROCEDURE:
1. Ohio House Bill 354 establishes a standardized method or procedure for withholding CPR and identifies two different points at which DNRCC is initiated. The DNRCC Protocol provides health care providers with specific guidelines regarding the patient's wishes about end of life issues.
  2. A patient may choose to be a "DNR Comfort Care" or "DNR Comfort Care Arrest". The difference between the two is the point at which the DNRCC Protocol is activated.
  3. DNR Comfort Care Protocol is activated immediately upon the receipt of the order and the health care provider will provide only interventions as follows:
    - Suction the airway
    - Administer oxygen
    - Position for comfort
    - Splint or immobilization
    - Control bleeding
    - Provide pain medication
    - Provide emotional support
    - Contact other appropriate health care providers such as hospice or attending physician
  4. The patient with DNRCC will not receive any of the components of CPR as follows:
    - Administer chest compressions
    - Insert artificial airway
    - Administer resuscitative drugs
    - Defibrillate or cardiovert
    - Provide respiratory assistance
    - Initiate resuscitative IV
    - Initiate cardiac monitoring
  5. DNR Comfort Care Arrest Protocol states that DNRCC Protocol will go into effect **only** if the patient experiences cardiac or respiratory arrest. The patient will receive components of CPR until cardiac or respiratory arrest occurs. At that time DNRCC Protocol will be activated and all other interventions will be discontinued.

6. The DNRCC Protocol process will be initiated when the patient/designee has indicated the desire. The RN will notify the attending physician of the patient's/designee's wishes. The physician must sign the DNRCC Protocol Form within twenty-four (24) hours.
7. The RN will complete the DNRCC Protocol Form and place a copy of the form in the Medical chart, giving the physician signed original to the patient or designee.
8. The RN will complete the State-approved wallet identification card and give it to the patient or designee.
9. The RN will complete the DNR identification bracelet insert, place it in a clear plastic transparent bracelet and attach the bracelet to the patient's wrist. If the physician's signature is not on the form and twenty-four (24) hours have elapsed since the physician's telephone order had been obtained, the bracelet will be removed.
10. The RN will document in the nursing record what forms were completed and who they were given to, i.e., patient or designee.
11. A patient who is enrolled in the DNRCC Protocol may have a temporary modification of their status as determined and documented on the "Reassessment of Do Not Resuscitate Order Form".
12. The DNRCC Protocol decision will be discussed with the patient/designee each time the patient accesses East Liverpool City Hospital. The discussion will be documented in the Health History Assessment Status.
13. The patient or designee acting in accordance with the patient's wishes, may choose at any time to withdraw from the DNRCC Protocol. The physician will be notified and the Health History Assessment Status will be modified to note the changed status.

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Vice-president, Patient Care

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Bioethics Co-Chairman

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Date

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