



## Waterford Ambulance Service Directive

---

Approval Date: June 1, 2014  
To: All WAS Staff  
From: Steven D Garvin, President WAS  
Subject: Recognition and Transfer of Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders  
Directive: 14-005

---

Waterford Ambulance Service Staff,

There has been some confusion reported regarding when a DNR Bracelet and/or a DNR Transfer Order is appropriate. DNR Bracelets and Transfer Orders are governed by the CT Department of Public Health, Regulations 19a-580d-1 through 19a-580d-9, copied below. While researching this issue, I spoke with Ron Kersey at L&M to verify the interpretation of this DPS regulation. In all cases, if a question at a scene occurs as to whether a DNR Bracelet or Transfer Order is appropriate, Contact Medical Control via Med Radio or Recorded Phone Line for clarification.

The purpose of the DNR Transfer Order is to identify those patients within a “Healthcare Institution” as defined in regulation as; “an institution licensed or regulated under chapter 368v of the Connecticut General Statutes”, which have requested the withholding of CPR lifesaving measures. Some of the regular Healthcare Institutions that we service are, but not limited to, Atria at Crossroads, the L&M Cancer Center, Nursing Homes, etc. See form example below.

The purpose of the DNR Bracelet order is identify patients outside of a Healthcare Institution such as, but not limited to, a residence, public place, private location, and other such area which have requested the withholding of CPR lifesaving measures. Note: this is the more common identification that we will find.



## Waterford Ambulance Service Directive

Per CT DPH Regulation, 19a-580d-4, “A DNR bracelet shall be the only valid indication recognized by EMS providers that a DNR order exists for patients **outside** a healthcare institution, other than those patients received by an EMS provider directly from a healthcare institution”.

When we are responding to a Healthcare Institution, and are presented with a DNR Transfer Order, per CT DPH Regulation, 19a-580d-2 we **Shall** honor such orders accept in the event of an Ethical, Philosophical, or religious objection as described in CT DPH Regulation, 19a-580d-9. Again, in cases, if a question at a scene occurs as to whether a DNR Bracelet or Transfer Order is appropriate, Contact Medical Control via Med Radio or Recorded Phone Line for clarification.

I know this can be confusing and if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or our Medical Control representative, Ron Kersey of L&M.

*Steven D. Garvin*

President, Waterford Ambulance Service



# Waterford Ambulance Service Directive

## Attachments

# State of Connecticut

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.  
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor  
Nancy Wyman  
Lt. Governor

Department of Public Health Public Health Code 19a-580d-1. Definitions *Current with materials published in Connecticut Law Journal through 06/01/2006*

### **DNR Orders**

Effective December 30, 1996

#### **19a-580d-1. Definitions**

As used in sections 19a-580d-1 through 19a-580d-9 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

- (1) "Attending physician" means the Connecticut licensed physician selected by or assigned to a patient, who has primary responsibility for the treatment and care of the patient. Where more than one physician shares such responsibility, any such physician may act as the attending physician.
- (2) "Authorized representative" means a person who is otherwise authorized by law to provide consent to the issuance or revocation of a DNR order for an incapable or incompetent patient.
- (3) "Department" means the Connecticut Department of Public Health.
- (4) "Designated agency" means either a healthcare institution or a physician licensed by the department.
- (5) "Do Not Resuscitate order" or "DNR order" means an order written by a Connecticut licensed physician to withhold cardiopulmonary resuscitation, including chest compressions, defibrillation, or breathing or ventilation by any assistive or mechanical means including, but not limited to, mouth-to-mouth, mouth-to-mask, bag-valve mask, endotracheal tube, or ventilator for a particular patient.
- (6) "DNR bracelet" means the bracelet approved by the department for the transmission of a 'Do Not Resuscitate' order and meeting the requirements of section 19a-580d-4.
- (7) "DNR transfer form" means a form approved by the department for the transmission of a 'Do Not Resuscitate' order issued by a licensed physician.
- (8) "Emergency Medical Services provider" or "EMS Provider" means a person, association, or organization who provides immediate or lifesaving transportation and medical care away from a hospital to a victim of sudden illness or injury, and who may also provide invalid coach services.
- (9) "Healthcare institution" means an institution licensed or regulated under chapter 368v of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- (10) "Medical direction" means the provision of medical advice, consultation, instruction and authorization to appropriately trained or certified personnel by designated staff members at sponsor hospitals.



# Waterford Ambulance Service Directive

## **19a-580d-2. DNR transfer form**

- (a) To transmit a DNR order between healthcare institutions or during transport by an EMS provider between healthcare institutions, the DNR order shall be documented on the DNR transfer form.
- (b) The DNR transfer form signed by a licensed physician or a registered nurse shall be recognized as such and followed by healthcare institutions and EMS providers.

## **19a-580d-3. Transfer and recognition of DNR orders when patients are transported**

- (a) When a patient who is to be transferred between healthcare institutions has a DNR order which is to remain in effect during and after the transfer, that order shall be documented on a DNR transfer form which is signed by the physician who entered the DNR order or by a registered nurse who attests to the existence of such order. The DNR transfer form or a legible copy shall be sent with the patient when the patient is transferred to another healthcare institution.
- (b) The DNR transfer form or a legible copy shall be retained with the patient's medical
- (c) The DNR transfer form or a legible copy or a DNR bracelet shall be shown to all EMS providers by the healthcare facility staff person who transfers care of the patient to the EMS providers. The EMS provider shall show the DNR transfer form or a legible copy or a DNR bracelet to a nurse or physician at the receiving healthcare institution or, in the absence of a nurse or physician, the person in charge of patient care.
- (d) Any healthcare institution receiving a patient with a DNR transfer form, a legible copy, or DNR bracelet shall honor the DNR order until such time as admitting orders are written in accordance with the healthcare institution's policies.
- (e) When a patient has a DNR order which is to remain in effect after discharge from a healthcare institution to home, that patient shall be offered a DNR bracelet by the healthcare institution prior to discharge.
- (f) Any EMS provider receiving a patient with a DNR transfer form or a legible copy or a DNR bracelet shall honor the DNR order.

## **19a-580d-4. DNR bracelets**

- (a) A DNR bracelet shall be the only valid indication recognized by EMS providers that a DNR order exists for patients outside a healthcare institution, other than those patients received by an EMS provider directly from a healthcare institution. A valid DNR bracelet shall:
    - (1) Be of a design approved by the department,
    - (2) be affixed to the patient's wrist or ankle,
    - (3) display the patient's name and attending physician's name, and
    - (4) not have been cut or broken at any time.
  - (c) A DNR bracelet shall be recognized and honored by healthcare institutions and EMS providers.
  - (d) A patient or the patient's authorized representative may obtain a DNR bracelet from any designated agency based on a written order from the patient's attending physician.
    - (1) The designated agency shall maintain a permanent record including a copy of the written DNR order.
    - (2) A designated agency may obtain DNR bracelets and DNR transfer forms from the organization selected by the department to maintain a central supply of such items.
- (Effective December 30, 1996.)

## **19a-580d-5. EMS providers**

DNR patients under the care of EMS providers shall be given medical care as determined by consultation with medical direction, recognizing the limitations of the DNR order.



## Waterford Ambulance Service Directive

### **19a-580d-6. Assistance by attending physicians**

When requested by a patient or his authorized representative the attending physician who issued the DNR order shall:

- (a) Provide the patient with information on how to contact a designated agency, or
- (b) if a patient is unable to obtain a DNR bracelet from any other source, the attending physician shall obtain and provide one.

### **19a-580d-7. Revocation**

A DNR order may be revoked by the patient or authorized representative in any of the following ways:

- (a) Removing the bracelet from the patient's extremity, or
- (b) telling an individual licensed healthcare provider or certified emergency medical technician. Such healthcare provider or emergency medical technician shall enter, or cause to be entered, the contents of the statement in the patient's permanent medical record and notify the attending physician and the physician who issued the DNR order.

### **19a-580d-8. Provision for patients with certain considerations**

- (a) Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to limit the authority of the commissioner of mental retardation under subsection (g) of section 17a-238 of the general statutes concerning orders applied to persons receiving services under the direction of the commissioner of mental retardation.

### **19a-580d-9. Ethical, philosophical, religious objections**

- (a) Healthcare providers who have an ethical or philosophical, or religious objection to implementing a DNR order shall turn over care of the patient without delay to another provider who will implement the DNR order. Pending the assumption of care by another provider, the DNR order shall be followed.



# Waterford Ambulance Service Directive

19a-580d-2. DNR Transfer Form



# State of Connecticut

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



## TRANSFER OF “DO NOT RESUSCITATE” ORDER



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Healthcare Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, attest that the above named person has a valid “Do Not Resuscitate” order which was written on: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_, M.D. and is retained in this person’s medical record at the above location.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of M.D. or R.N. Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date