

## **PREHOSPITAL MEDICAL CARE DIRECTIVE FOR WITHHOLDING CARE**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE 1.12**

The purpose of this protocol is to ensure that procedures for applying Prehospital Medical Care Directives for Withholding Care comply with ARS § 36-3251.

<http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/forms-pdf/dnr-lrg.doc>

#### **I. GENERAL**

- A. The presence of a valid Prehospital Medical Care Directive for Withholding Care allows prehospital care providers to withhold care on patients who wish not to be resuscitated.
  - 1. When such a document is produced by the patient, patient's guardian, or agent designated to act on the patient's behalf, it should conform to the current Arizona Prehospital Medical Care Directive Form (Orange Form).
  - 2. If at any time the patient wishes to reverse the DNR order, they may do so by verbally telling the emergency provider.
  - 3. If at any time the patient's surrogate wishes to reverse the DNR order, medical direction must be contacted. Resuscitative efforts should be initiated until clarification of the Prehospital Medical Care Directive is made by a medical direction authority.
- B. Proper police agencies should be notified when:
  - 1. Resuscitative efforts are cancelled by a medical direction authority
  - 2. A valid Prehospital Medical Care Directive Form is presented and resuscitative efforts are withheld

#### **IV. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- A. Prehospital Medical Care Directive for Withholding Care does not apply to Mass Casualty Incidents or medical emergencies involving children and disabled adults in schools.
- B. Emergency Medical System personnel are not required to accept or interpret medical care directives other than the Prehospital Medical Care Directive (Orange Form).
- C. Authorization for the withholding of cardiopulmonary resuscitation does not include the withholding of other medical interventions prior to cardiac or respiratory arrest. In the event a patient is being transported for such medical care, the Prehospital Medical Care Directive may (at the patient or family request) be validated by EMS personnel and the original left with the patient or patient's family. Documentation regarding the validity of a Prehospital Medical Care Directive form must be included on the agency's patient Care reporting document.
- D. Document the presence of the Prehospital medical Care Directive form on your Agency's patient care reporting document.

**EFFECTIVE 1/93 REVISED 1/2000; 10/2003; 10/2006; 1/2008**