

## Training Bulletin Do Not Resuscitate Confirmation (DNRC) Form

### Supplemental Frequently Asked Questions

Questions 1 – 19 can be found in Appendix 1 of the *DNRC Information Bulletin*

**20. Have all health system stakeholders been notified about the new *DNR Standard* and *DNR Confirmation Form*?**

All health system stakeholder groups – including Long-Term Care facilities, hospitals, palliative care groups, physicians, nurses and paramedics have been notified by their respective associations or governing bodies through the DNR Task Force regarding the upcoming implementation of the revised *DNR Standard* and *DNR Confirmation Form*, effective Feb. 1, 2008.

In addition, fire services across the province have been advised of the revised Standard and Form. The Office of the Fire Marshal has issued a communiqué and posted firefighter-specific training materials on their website.

Ministry staff and stakeholder representatives continue to work together to enhance the provision of information on this important change.

**21. The Training Bulletin makes reference to “Do Not Resuscitate Orders” and “Treatment Plans”. What is the difference between the two?**

A Do Not Resuscitate order is specific direction given by a physician not to resuscitate a patient in the event that the patient experiences a respiratory or cardiorespiratory arrest. A DNR order by a physician may be made in advance and included in a patient’s current Treatment Plan or it may be made at the time of the event. A Treatment Plan outlines the ongoing management and care of a patient. A Treatment Plan is routinely developed in a process which involves health care professionals, the patient and their family. A patient’s Treatment Plan may change to include a no CPR request when the patient or their substitute decision-maker requests that it be included.

The *DNR Confirmation Form*, when completed and signed by a medical doctor (M.D.), Registered Nurse (R.N.), Registered Nurse in the Extended Class [R.N. (EC)] or Registered Practical Nurse (R.P.N.) will confirm that the existing plan of care as documented in the patient’s Treatment Plan does not include CPR.

**22. Do paramedics/firefighters need to “confirm” that an individual who identifies themselves as the patient’s substitute decision-maker (SDM) - is legally authorized to give or refuse consent?**

Confirmation of SDM status is not required by paramedics/firefighters. If there is any confusion or doubt about the identity or authority of the SDM, paramedics/firefighters will initiate resuscitation on a patient who has experiences respiratory or cardiorespiratory arrest.

- 23. Does the *DNR Confirmation Form* direct the practice of volunteer firefighters?**  
Firefighters - both full time and volunteer - are managed by the municipalities in Ontario and their fire departments, each of which may have their own policies and procedures to direct their practice in regard to the *DNR Standard*. Each fire department adopting the *DNR Standard* should develop a standard operating procedure (SOP) incorporating the *DNR Confirmation Form*.
- 24. Can the *DNR Confirmation Form* be completed for a patient of any age, or is there a minimum age requirement?**  
Patients of any age may have “no CPR” or “DNR” as part of their current treatment plan. Paramedics can accept and honour a *DNR Confirmation Form* for any patient, regardless of their age, if the form has been completed and signed by a Health Care Provider as defined within the *DNR Standard*.
- 25. Can firefighters cancel the ambulance response if they arrive on scene and are presented with a Valid *DNR Confirmation Form*?**  
No. Ambulance Communications Officers will not cancel or modify the priority of an ambulance response. Paramedics must respond even if they have been advised of the existence of a *DNR Confirmation Form*. On arrival at the scene, paramedics will need to follow the appropriate On-Scene Directives within the *DNR Standard*.
- 26. Does the *DNR Confirmation Form* direct the practice of First Response Team members?**  
The *DNR Confirmation Form* only relates to the patient care practices of paramedics and firefighters. If a firefighter is employed as part of a First Response Team to provide medical response, the firefighter will follow the standard operating procedures of the First Response Team in regards to the *DNR Confirmation Form*.
- 27. Some police services are not aware of the revised *DNR Standard*. How are they going to be notified of the implementation of this Standard?**  
The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are revising operational policy to accommodate the new *DNR Confirmation Form*. As well, the Public Safety Division of the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services will be issuing a memorandum to all Municipal Police Chiefs regarding the revised *DNR Standard* and new *DNR Confirmation Form* - and will be encouraged to liaise with the local EMS providers and local Fire Chiefs to discuss and coordinate efforts, where applicable.