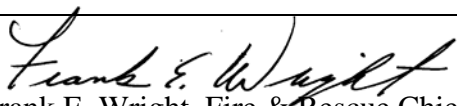
	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES	
	SUBJECT	DURABLE DO NOT RESUSCITATE PROGRAM
	REFERENCE NUMBER	SOP-06-05
	EFFECTIVE DATE	January 1, 2006
	Signature of Approval	 Frank E. Wright, Fire & Rescue Chief

TO: All Fire & Rescue Personnel

FROM: Capt. Frank Moore

Since July 1, 1992, the office of Emergency Medical Services of the Virginia Department of Health has provided a specific protocol for identifying DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) cases, under which only EMS/DNR Orders were legally acceptable for observance by EMS personnel. On March 27, 2002, the Regulations Governing Durable Do Not Resuscitate (DDNR) Orders were approved by the Virginia State Board of Health. These regulations amend the EMS/DNR regulations and establish a DDNR Order that follows the patient throughout the entire health care setting. Please review this memorandum fully, as this policy is the legally acceptable standard for handling of DNR cases by EMS personnel in Virginia. This policy must be complied with when responding to a patient who is in cardiac or respiratory arrest and who is known or suspected to have a DDNR Order in effect.

DDNR Orders can be written for anyone, regardless of health condition or age, and including minors. The DDNR Order form must have two signatures – the physician who has bona fide physician/patient relationship with the patient identified on the form, and the patient or the person authorized to consent on the patient’s behalf. The physician’s signature and date are found on the front of the form, and the signature of the patient or the person authorized to consent on the patient’s behalf is found on the rear of the form. The DDNR Order shall be effective from the date written and signed by both persons.

The EMS provider must verify that the patient is a DNR case by seeing the original copy of the special yellow Virginia Department of Health Durable Do Not Resuscitate Order or the unaltered approved Virginia Durable DNR alternate identification on the patient. The original Virginia Durable DNR Form may be found in the following locations:

1. on the back of the door leading the patient’s bedroom,
2. on the bedside table, beside the patient’s bed, or
3. on the refrigerator.

In Conjunction with the Durable DNR Order, the Board of Health has authorized an approved bracelet or necklace as an alternate form of Durable DNR Order Identification. The approved bracelet or necklace will contain the following information: patient's full legal name, Durable DNR number on the Virginia Durable DNR form or number unique to the patient that is assigned by the vendor, the words – Virginia Do Not Resuscitate, and the physicians name and phone number.

If the patient is traveling or being transported by EMS, the original form must be with the patient or the patient should wear an approved alternate form of the Durable DNR identification.

The DDNR Order is valid until revoked, which is possible at any time by the patient or the person authorized to consent on the patient's behalf destroying the form or by simply stating (or otherwise indicating) that he or she wishes to be resuscitated. If the DDNR Order is revoked, EMS personnel shall resume full resuscitation and treatment of the patient.

Other Do Not Resuscitate Orders may be honored by EMS providers for patients who are currently admitted to a hospital or other health care facility, or during transport of the patient from one health care facility to another. Health care facilities are defined as “any institution, place, building, or agency required to be licensed under Virginia law, including, but not limited to, any hospital, nursing facility or nursing home, adult care residence, assisted living facility, or ambulatory surgical center. Those orders must be written or verbally given by a physician who is a bona fide physician/patient relationship, they must include the patient's full name, the physician's signature, and the date issued. Verbal orders for DNR must be received from the physician who is physically present at the time of death of the patient. Written orders may appear in several different formats, such as prescription form, hospital form, or patient record.

The EMS provider is not required to take written DNR orders other than durable DNR Orders when transporting the patient from one health care facility to another. Instead, they must document on the patient care report that they received a doctor's verbal order or were shown a valid Other DNR Order.

All **EMS/DNR Orders** that were in effect on July 1, 1999, or issued after that date are considered durable DNR Orders and shall remain valid until revoked in the same manner as the DDNR the Virginia Department of Health no longer issues the EMS/DNR Form.

Durable DNR Orders contraindicate the following procedures: intubation measures, CPR, defibrillation, cardiac resuscitation medications, and artificial ventilations. However, the EMS provider may provide measures such as airway maintenance (excluding intubation), suction, oxygen, pain medications (ALS personnel only), and control of bleeding to comfort the patient and alleviate pain.

When following a DDNR Order for a patient, EMS personnel shall document the response in the following way:

1. Complete the standard Pre-hospital Patient Care Report Form.
2. Describe the assessment of the patient's status.
3. Document which identification (DDNR Order form or other DNR Order) was used to confirm DDNR status and that it was intact, not defaced or altered, not canceled, or not officially revoked.
4. Record the actual DDNR Order number and name of the patient's physician.
5. If the patient is being transported, keep the original DDNR Order form with the patient.

The following general principles also apply to implementation of DDNR Orders:

1. If there is a misunderstanding with family members or others present at the scene or if there are other concerns about following the DDNR Orders, contact the attending physician or EMS medical control (the Emergency Department doctor) for guidance.
2. If there is any question about the validity of a DDNR Order, resuscitate the patient.
3. A DDNR Order does not mean do not treat otherwise or do not provide appropriate care. Provide all possible comfort care and treat the patient and family with care and concern.

A sample copy of the Durable Do Not Resuscitate Order form is displayed at the Fire and Rescue Department Office. Please contact me if you have any questions.