

# **DNR COMFORT CARE**

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## **Purpose**

To provide the care consistent with the patient's wishes and recognize their rights when enrolled in the comfort care program

To clarify the distinctions between DNR Comfort Care and Comfort Care Arrest

## **IDENTIFICATION**

Standard identification card, form, necklace, that is uniform in size and designs that has been approved by the Ohio Department of Health

## **DETERMINING PATIENT IDENTITY**

- Driver's license
- Family member, friend, or caregiver
- Personnel knowledge of the patient by EMS providers
- Healthcare facility arm band

## **REVOCAION OF THE DNR COMFORT CARE**

- The patient may revoke the DNR Comfort Care by oral or written request to have CPR administered
- If the patient tears up destroys the comfort care order, or by removing the necklace or bracelet

## **COMFORT CARE VS. COMFORT CARE ARREST**

- Comfort care is triggered by the DNR order being signed regardless of the patients status
- Comfort care arrest is triggered by cardiac / respiratory arrest
  1. Cardiac Arrest: Absence of a palpable pulse
  2. Respiratory Arrest: Absence of spontaneous respiration or agonal breathing



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## PATIENTS WITH A VALID DNR COMFORT CARE PROGRAM WILL NOT RECEIVE

- Administration of chest compressions
- Initiation of CPR
- Intubation
- Initiation of cardiac monitoring
- Administration of resuscitation drugs or resuscitation IV initiation
- Defibrillation
- Provision of ventilator assistance

## PATIENTS WITH A DNR COMFORT CARE PROGRAM WILL RECEIVE:

- Suction of the airway
- Administration of oxygen
- Position of comfort
- Splinting
- Provide pain management
- Provide emotional support
- Contact physician, hospice, or home health care
- Consider initiation of IV for pain management only

## DOCUMENTATION TO BE COMPLETED:

- A brief description of the incident
  1. That a comfort care order exists and type of order
  2. Type of patient identification
  3. A brief description of the reason that EMS activated
- If the comfort care program is revoked
- If a verbal order is obtained from a physician at the scene, EMS personnel are to verify the physician's identity and document the verification.
- Documentation of the care of provided

