

APPENDIX: 26

TITLE: POST/DNR

REVISED: November 1, 2023

I. OVERVIEW:

The purpose of this appendix is to provide guidance on identification and recognition of various “Do Not Resuscitate” (DNR) orders providers may encounter. This appendix directly supplements protocol *G-04: Special Resuscitation Situations*.

For the purposes of this protocol, these DNRs are broken into 4 categories:

- Interfacility transfer with a non-POST/DNR
- Idaho POST
- Out of State /Foreign DNRs
- Living Wills/Non-Post Advanced Directives

II. INTERFACILITY NON-COMFORT ONE DNR/DNI:

Occasionally, during transportation between hospitals or between a hospital and other facilities (i.e., HOSPICE or a nursing home), a patient may die and resuscitation may be undesired and inhumane. The following procedure will be followed:

- **When possible:** EMS personnel will secure and maintain possession of a physician order for a DNR status or DNR documentation from the patient’s chart with a physician signature.
- Traditional comfort care will be done regardless of the patient’s DNR status.

When a patient ceases to have signs of life **or** meets the requirement for aggressive airway management, **EMS personnel will then:**

- Contact the receiving physician (unless an order is secured in advance) for permission not to institute resuscitative measures. Document such interaction.
- If there is a delay, contact medical control at receiving facility.
- Unless an order is pre-established, begin resuscitative efforts until contact with medical control is established.

V: IDAHO PHYSICIAN ORDERS FOR SCOPE OF TREATMENT (POST)

Idaho Code (Idaho Code, Title 39-4502 to 39-4516) permits the use of a universal advanced directive. The POST form includes provision for DNR as well as other care, therefore it is broader in scope than a traditional DNR. POST must be honored by all health care professionals except when:

- They believe in good faith the POST has been revoked or suspended as indicated above
OR
- To avoid an oral or physical confrontation
- If ordered to by the attending physician/medical control
- If neither a POST form or POST DNR jewelry are present

Idaho Code (39-4514) permits **Signed and dated copies** (to include photostatic, facsimile or electronic/digital copies) of the original POST form to be honored.

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VI. OUT OF STATE AND FOREIGN DNRS

Out of state DNR orders: Per Idaho Code 39-4514 (7) an advanced directive or DNR order prepared from any other state, district, or territory of the United States with a physician signature may be honored.

Foreign DNR Orders: If EMS personnel receive a patient with a DNR from another country; contact will be made with the receiving physician or Medical Control.

- If contact is delayed begin resuscitative efforts.
- If the DNR is unreadable, begin resuscitative efforts.

VI. LIVING WILLS/NON-POST ADVANCE DIRECTIVES/NON-POST DNR

Per Idaho Code 39-4514 (4) an advanced directive of **any type** may be honored the same as a POST or similar form **provided it is signed and/or notarized (if required)**. An advanced directive may be suspended or revoked similar to a POST Form.