

Tuolumne County Emergency Medical Services Agency  
EMS System Policies and Procedures

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**Policy: Do Not Resuscitate**

**#570.21**

Effective: 7-31-97

Medical Director: Kimberly Freeman, M.D.; signature on file Revision Date: 2-24-21

EMS Coordinator: Katie Andrews; signature on file Review Date: 8/2026

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I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.220 and 1798; Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Division 9, Sections 100107 and 100146; and State Emergency Medical Services Authority Guideline 111.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)" means no chest compression, no assisted ventilation, no defibrillation, no intubation and no cardiotoxic medications.
- B. "Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Personnel" means those persons who have been certified as qualified to provide prehospital emergency medical care pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria for prehospital emergency medical care personnel working within the Tuolumne County EMS System to easily recognize and follow a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order previously established by a patient.

IV. POLICY

- A. All patients whose assessment does not reveal "obvious death" as defined in Policy 570.20 **Determination of Death** shall be treated in accordance with treatment guidelines, unless the prehospital emergency medical care personnel are presented with a valid DNR order evidenced by a written, signed order in the patient's medical record, a completed Prehospital DNR Request Form stating "Do Not Resuscitate" or a Medic Alert medallion inscribed "Do Not Resuscitate EMS."

V. PROCEDURE

- A. When prehospital emergency medical care personnel are presented with a valid DNR order, no resuscitative measures shall be carried out including placing an automatic or semi-automatic defibrillator on the patient. Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Personnel shall provide the patient with appropriate palliative treatment including but not limited to:
1. Oxygen administration.
  2. Treatment of hemorrhage.
  3. Treatment for pain.
  4. Treatment of airway obstruction.
  5. Transport to a receiving facility.
- B. If the patient is conscious and states he/she wishes resuscitative measures, the DNR order shall be ignored.
- C. If a patient with a valid "DNR" order is unconscious and family members request resuscitative measures Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Personnel should initiate basic life support resuscitative measures, treating the patient in accordance with applicable treatment guidelines and immediately contact a Base Hospital for further instructions.
- D. The non-obvious death of a patient with a valid DNR order shall be determined in accordance with policy 570.20 **DETERMINATION OF DEATH**, with the exception that resuscitative measures are not to be employed. If a determination of death is made while en route, transport of the body should continue to the original receiving facility.
- E. If patient transport is undertaken, the DNR order is to be taken with the patient to the receiving facility.
- F. DNR orders are to be honored during transport.
- G. The presence of a "DNR" order is to be documented on the Patient Care Report.