

**Ministry of Health and
Long-Term Care**

Emergency Health
Services Branch
5700 Yonge Street, 6th Floor
Toronto ON M2M 4K5
Tel.: 416-327-7909
Fax: 416-327-7879
Toll Free: 800-461-6431

**Ministère de la Santé et des
Soins de longue durée**

Direction des services de
santé d'urgence
5700 rue Yonge, 6^e étage
Toronto ON M2M 4K5
Tél.: 416-327-7909
Télééc.: 416-327-7879
Appels sans frais: 800-461-6431



June 18, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: EMS Directors and Managers
CAOs of Upper Tier Municipalities and
Designated Delivery Agents
Ornge

FROM: Malcolm Bates
Director
Emergency Health Services Branch

RE: **Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Standard**

I am pleased to advise you that the development of a new Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Standard and DNR Confirmation Form has been completed. This new standard will ensure that the wishes of the patient or consent of a Substitute Decision Maker (SDM) will be honoured in all settings; the process is simple to follow; and the risk of liability to paramedics is minimized.

This standard was developed with the assistance of the DNR Task Force, which included representatives from the Ontario Base Hospital Group, E.H.S. Medical Advisory Committee, Office of the Fire Marshal, Association of Municipal Emergency Medical Services of Ontario, College of Nurses of Ontario, Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres, Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, Ontario Palliative Care Association and the Pain and Symptom Management Program Network.

You will be receiving the new DNR Standard shortly. You will also be receiving a training program on CD-ROM that you may wish to use to orient your staff to the new standard. The effective date for province-wide implementation of the DNR Standard and DNR Confirmation Form is scheduled for November 1, 2007.

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Standard

One of the many positive new features of the DNR Confirmation Form is that it is a joint initiative between the Emergency Health Services Branch and the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal - and was designed to direct the practice of both paramedics and firefighters in DNR situations. Firefighters will receive more information directly from the Fire Marshal's Office and their local Fire Service regarding implementation and training.

As the DNR Standard is part of the Basic Life Support (BLS) Patient Care Standards, prior to the effective date, the Ministry will be reprinting Section 1 (General Standard of Care) along with an updated Table of Contents and cover page for version 2.1. Sufficient quantities will be forwarded to you so that you can provide a copy to every paramedic in your service.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the members of the DNR Task Force for their efforts. This new standardized process, allowing paramedics and firefighters to meet the DNR wishes of patients who receive care in all settings, including patients who choose to die at home, is a major step forward.

If you have any questions regarding the DNR Standard, please contact Ms. Cathy Francis, Manager of Education and Patient Care Standards at (416) 327-7843.



Malcolm Bates

- c: D. Brown, Senior Manager, Operations and Quality Management
- Dr. A. Campeau, Manager, Land Ambulance Programs
- P. R. Burke, Fire Marshal of Ontario
- L. Lofquist, Academic Standards and Evaluations, OFM
- C. Sherwood, Chair, DNR Task Force & Task Force Members
- R. Burgess, Chair, OBHG
- Dr. M. Welsford, Chair, MAC
- Dr. C. Mazza, CEO, Ornge
- C. Francis, Manager, Education and Patient Care Standards
- Senior Field Managers/Field Managers, EHSB
- R. Nishman, Manager, Air Ambulance Program
- J. Van Pelt, Manager, ICRCG
- Regional Training Coordinators
- Paramedic Program Coordinators