SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TITLE: **Do Not Resuscitate Orders**   EMS Policy No. **5105**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria for prehospital emergency medical care personnel working in the San Joaquin County EMS System to easily recognize and follow a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order.

AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.220 and 1798;

DEFINITIONS:

A.   "Do Not Resuscitate" or "DNR" means no chest compression, no assisted ventilation, no defibrillation, no intubation, and no cardiac medications.
B.   "Pre-hospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel" means those persons who have been certified or licensed as qualified to provide prehospital emergency medical care pursuant to the provisions of Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5.

POLICY:

I.   All patients whose initial assessment does not reveal "obvious death" as defined in EMS Policy No. 5103, Determination of Death, shall be treated in accordance with applicable treatment protocols, unless the prehospital emergency medical care personnel are presented with a valid DNR Order or POLST form evidenced by one of the following:
    A.   A written and signed physician's order in the patient's medical record stating DNR;
    B.   A completed State of California Prehospital DNR Request Form;
    C.   A Medic Alert® bracelet inscribed "Do Not Resuscitate EMS";
    D.   A completed EMS Authority POLST form.

II. When prehospital emergency medical care personnel are presented with a valid DNR order no resuscitative measures shall be carried out. Prehospital Emergency Medical Care personnel shall otherwise provide the patient with appropriate medical treatment other than resuscitative measures. Appropriate treatment may include but is not limited to:
    A.   Oxygen administration;
    B.   Treatment of hemorrhage;
    C.   Treatment for pain;
    D.   Treatment of airway obstruction;
    E.   Transport to a receiving facility.

Approved: Signature on file   Signature on file
                   Medical Director   EMS Administrator

III. When prehospital emergency medical care personnel are presented with a valid POLST form EMS personnel should review the levels of care in Sections A and B (refer to https://emsa.ca.gov/dnr_and_polst_forms/). EMS personnel should provide prehospital patient care consistent with the patient's wishes as documented on the POLST form.

IV. If the patient is conscious and states he/she wishes resuscitative measures, the DNR order or POLST form shall be ignored.

V. If a patient with a valid DNR order or POLST form is unconscious and family members request resuscitative measures prehospital emergency medical care personnel are to honor the DNR order or POLST form. If necessary to preserve scene safety, prehospital emergency medical care personnel may initiate basic life support resuscitation while contacting the Base Hospital for assistance and direction.

VI. In the absence of a DNR order or POLST form, if family members of an unconscious patient request that resuscitative measures are not to be undertaken, prehospital emergency medical care personnel are to initiate appropriate basic life support treatment while contacting the Base Hospital for assistance and direction.

VII. If the patient is transported, the DNR order or POLST form is to be transported with the patient to the receiving facility. DNR orders and POLST forms are to be honored during transport.

VIII. The presence of a DNR order or POLST form shall be documented on the Patient Care Report.

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