

Presentation of a Do Not Resuscitate Order to the District

The following criteria must be met when a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order for a student is presented to the District:

1. An original of the physician's order and the state Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Do Not Resuscitate form must be completed by the physician and the parent/guardian and kept with the student as required proof of original DNR. Photocopies should be kept in the student's health records

Recognized DNR Options in New Hampshire

- a) "P-DNR" (Portable DNR) order: Statewide recognized pink document and/or wallet card written by a physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner
 - b) DNR bracelet or necklace inscribed with the patient's name, date of birth, in numerical form, and "NH DNR" or "NH Do Not Resuscitate" on it
 - c) "DNR" order: Written by a physician at a nursing home, hospital, or other in-patient care setting
 - d) "PORT" (Physician Order Regarding Treatment): Accompanying patient from facility to facility or in their home
2. When a student is 18 years of age or older, the DNR authorization must be made by the student, unless custody of the student has been legally awarded to a guardian.

A DNR order is to be presented to the school principal and the school nurse, who will initiate the following procedures:

1. The Superintendent, Principal and school nurse are to be informed when the school has received a DNR order.
2. Upon receiving a DNR order, a conference will be arranged with the parent/guardian, the local EMS providers, appropriate school staff, and health providers. A plan of care, which follows the physician's orders, will be developed and include goals, outcomes and delegation of care to be addressed in the student's Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP). The healthcare plan will be written by the school nurse, in collaboration with the parent/guardian, and is to be reviewed at the beginning of each school year and as part of each IEP and/or 504 plan (if applicable) and updated as needed. All proceedings are to be documented in the student's health record. The IHP will specify which life-sustaining/comfort measures procedures will be used by district personnel in the case of an emergency.
3. The physician's order and EMS DNR form must be documented on the student's Emergency Card and submitted to the school nurse. DNR orders are to be reviewed at the beginning of each school year and as part of each IEP or 504 plan (if applicable).

4. Student confidentiality will be maintained as much as possible. Only school staff with a legitimate need-to-know will be informed of the DNR order. The parent(s)/guardian(s) will be advised that anyone who is not directly informed about the DNR order will otherwise follow Board policy and initiate resuscitation.
5. The school nurse will be responsible for ensuring that all staff members who are informed of the DNR order are trained to follow the expected procedures as delineated in the student's healthcare plan.

Procedures for Implementing a Do Not Resuscitate Order

If a student with a DNR order suffers a cardiac or respiratory arrest at school, the following will be implemented:

1. Activate Emergency Medical Services.
2. Contact the parent/guardian.
3. Isolate the student and maintain as normal an atmosphere as possible in the school or site. Provide comfort measures as outlined below or per care plan.

Comfort Measures:

Until EMS arrives: Any student who is deemed to have a valid DNR order as outlined above has indicated their wishes not to be resuscitated with basic or advanced life support measures. **They do wish maximum comfort care.**

If the above conditions are met, school staff should perform the following procedures:

- Do not do chest compressions or actively assist ventilations via Bag Valve Mask (BVM).
- Do not defibrillate.
- Do not use external pacemaker.

School staff may perform any comfort measures to these students within their scope of practice per the usual treatment guidelines, including, but not limited to:

- Oxygen therapy via simple mask, non-rebreather mask, or nasal cannula
 - Medications for treatment of pain, respiratory distress, dysrhythmias
 - Mouth or airway suctioning
4. Transport with portable DNR, by EMS to local emergency department for continued end of life care.
 5. Contact the physician who wrote the DNR order.
 6. Grief counseling resources for school employees can be obtained from the Employee Assistance Program; and for students, from the Student Support Services Non-Crisis Counseling Team.

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7. When appropriate, the District Crisis Counseling Team will be activated to provide assistance at the school.

Revocation of a Do Not Resuscitate Order

The DNR order may be revoked at any time by:

1. Physical destruction of the DNR Order form with the consent of the authorized decision-maker; or
2. An oral statement by the authorized decision-maker to resuscitate.
3. For the purposes of this policy, the term “authorized decision-maker” shall be the student if he/she is 18 years of age or older and a parent/guardian if the student is under 18 years of age.

Staff who have been informed about the original DNR order will be informed of its revocation.

Record of the revocation will be made on the student's health record.

Note: All students without valid DNR documentation should be given full resuscitative efforts by school and prehospital personnel.

Law Reference: *RSA 137-J:26, Issuance of a Do Not Resuscitate Order*
RSA 137-J:27, Compliance with a Do Not Resuscitate Order
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 - 1487
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 20 U.S.C. § 794
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 - 12213

Appendix Reference:

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