SEPTEMBER 2019
OHIO'S REVISED DO-NOT-RESUSCITATE RULES

Ohio’s revised Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) rules went into effect Sept. 1, 2019 and include several important changes for hospitals:

- The rules now authorize licensed registered nurse anesthetists and certified nurse-midwives to issue DNR orders. The prior rules only included certified nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists.

- DNR identification remains effective unless the identification is properly revoked. The prior rules did not explicitly recognize this.

- In providing emergency medical care, the patient need not be searched for DNR identification. This was not addressed in the prior rules.

- The rules now allow DNR Comfort Care – Arrest patients without “DNR identification” to be identified by documentation in the patient’s medical record that in the event of a cardiac arrest or a respiratory arrest, the patient is not to receive CPR. This documentation is only acceptable within the confines of the health care facility in which the medical record is maintained. If the individual is discharged or transferred to another health care facility a state of Ohio DNR form must be completed.

- When transferring a patient with a DNR order, in any form, the transferring facility must send either a paper copy of the Ohio DNR order form or DNR identification with the patient. Under the previous rules, notification of the existence of a DNR order was sufficient.

Additionally, changes were made related to the DNR order form itself:

- A new DNR order form, available here, reflects the changes to who can authorize a DNR order. It also modifies the DNR protocol identifying what care providers will and will not provide in a DNR situation.

- Under the new rules, no one may change a DNR order form or annotate it outside the form’s provided fields. Medical orders and care instructions written on the form have no effect. The prior version of the rules was silent on this subject.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Ohio Department of Health’s DNR webpage contains additional information regarding the rule revisions, includes links to several educational resources for the public, nurses and other providers and lists contact information for the ODH Office of Health Assurance and Licensing, Do Not Resuscitate Program.

QUESTIONS?

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