**DNACPR information for East of England Ambulance crews**

**Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [DNACPR]**

East of England, in line with a number of other regions in England, has developed a standard regional DNACPR policy and form as well as a DNACPR e-learning resource. The documentation and resources have been rolled out to all sectors and care settings in the East of England region to promote the use of the regional DNACPR form. This enables a DNACPR order to be readily transferable and recognisable between care settings including Hospital Trusts, Community Trusts, GP Practices, Hospices and Care Homes.

**Why a regional DNACPR form?**

Patients with end of life care needs are now encouraged to develop advance care plans which include the consideration of a DNACPR order.

Senior Responsible Officers [SROs] usually Consultants or GPs, and sometimes senior nurses who have undertaken the DNACPR competency training, are also encouraged to assess proactively each individual patient with end of life care needs [as appropriate] in relation to DNACPR. This planned approach aims to reduce inappropriate resuscitation attempts irrespective of where the cardiac arrest takes place.

If a patient requires resuscitation and has a DNACPR order in place immediate information sharing is vital. However at critical points in the patient pathway incompatible systems can lead to DNACPR orders not being followed through and an inappropriate resuscitation being attempted. This can lead to the patient having a painful and undignified death which is also distressing for their loved ones.

**Which DNACPR forms can be accepted?**

To reduce the likelihood of inappropriate resuscitation events taking place the completed DNACPR form, which is retained by the patient, should be readily accessible for ambulance crews if a patient arrests. Ambulance crews should on arrival check that the DNACPR form is either an indefinite order or if there is a date stated that it is in date and contains the **original** Senior Responsible Officer signature.

**I have seen a DNACPR form as a black and white copy rather than the usual red bordered form. Is this valid?**

This is an issue only for a small number of GP Practices where the GP is completing an original black and white DNACPR form photocopied from a red bordered form as their Practice is not able to fund a print run order of DNACPR forms and does not have a colour printer in their Practice to print the form in colour. Black and white photocopied regional DNACPR forms are acceptable and valid from a GP if fully endorsed with their original SRO signature and stated as indefinite or in date [if date set for review]. However **only the original patient copy** in colour or as a black and white photocopied form **with the original SRO signature** should be accepted. Photocopies, in colour or black and white, of this original cannot be accepted by crews as the original form with the original signature may have changed or been reversed in the meantime.

**NB: Indefinite DNACPR orders are just that they do not have an expiry date.**

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