

SAEMS PREHOSPITAL PROTOCOLS

PREHOSPITAL MEDICAL CARE DIRECTIVE

The purpose of this protocol is to ensure that procedures for applying the Prehospital Medical Care Directive (PMCD), commonly known as the Orange Form or Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Form for Withholding Care comply with ARS § 36-3251.

http://www.azag.gov/life_care/DNR.pdf

I. GENERAL

- A. The presence of a valid PMCD allows prehospital care providers to withhold care on patients who wish not to be resuscitated following cardiac or respiratory arrest.
1. When such a document is produced by the patient, patient's guardian, or agent designated to act on the patient's behalf, it should conform to the current Arizona PMCD Form.
 2. If at any time the patient wishes to reverse the DNR order, they may do so by communicating their wish to the emergency provider.
 3. If at any time the patient's guardian or agent wishes to reverse the DNR order, medical direction must be contacted. Resuscitative efforts should be initiated until clarification of the PMCD is made by a medical direction authority.
- B. Proper police agencies shall be notified when:
1. resuscitative efforts are withdrawn by a medical direction authority.
 2. a valid PMCD is presented and resuscitative efforts are withheld.
- C. Specifications regarding the PMCD:
1. The PMCD must be printed on an orange background and may be in either letter or wallet size. The form must include the wording mandated by ARS § 36-3251.
 2. An individual with a valid PMCD may wear an identifying bracelet on either the wrist or ankle. The bracelet must:
 - Be substantially similar to identification bracelets worn in hospitals
 - Be on an orange background and state in bold type:
 - **DO NOT RESUSCITATE**
 - **PATIENT'S NAME**
 - **PATIENT'S PHYSICIAN**

II. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Emergency medical system and hospital emergency department personnel who make a good faith effort to identify the patient and who rely on an apparently genuine PMCD form or photocopy of a PMCD form on orange paper are immune from liability to the same extent and under the same conditions as prescribed in statute. If a person has any doubt as to the validity of a PMCD form or the medical situation, that person shall proceed with resuscitative efforts as otherwise required by law.

EFFECTIVE 1/93 REVISED 1/2000; 10/2003; 10/2006; 1/2008; 4/19/11

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Emergency medical system personnel are not required to accept or interpret medical care directives that do not meet the requirements of A.R.S. § 36-3251.

- B. Emergency medical personnel are not required to accept or interpret medical care directives other than the PMCD such as a Durable Health Care Power of Attorney or a Living Will.
- C. PMCD does not apply to Mass Casualty Incidents or medical emergencies involving children and disabled adults on public or private school property. A PMCD can be recognized on the campus of the Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) because it is also a licensed health care facility.
- D. Authorization for the withholding of cardiopulmonary resuscitation does not include the withholding of other medical interventions prior to cardiac or respiratory arrest, such as IV fluids, oxygen, or other measures deemed necessary to provide comfort or alleviate pain.
- E. In the event a patient is being transported for such medical care, The PMCD may be validated by EMS personnel and the original left with the patient, patient's guardian or agent.
- F. Documentation regarding the validity of a PMCD must be included on the agency's patient care reporting document.