



Do Not Attempt Resuscitation/Allow Natural Death

PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center respects the rights of an informed, competent adult or legal representative and follows their wishes in withholding life sustaining treatment in a terminal or comatose state by a “Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)” or “Allow Natural Death (AND)” written order as defined by federal and state laws and regulations, and accreditation standards.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation will be attempted in the event of a cardiac or respiratory arrest on hospital property unless there is a specific order to the contrary.

A DNR/AND order that is documented on a properly executed Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) serves as a valid medical order if signed by both the patient/surrogate and a medical provider. The POLST must be reviewed within 24 hours of hospital admission.

Where medical treatment is required for an adult (person 18 years of age or older) patient who is incompetent, persons authorized to give informed consent on behalf of the patient, in order or priority, are:

- the appointed guardian
- the individual to whom the patient has given durable power of attorney encompassing the authority to make health care decisions
- the patient’s spouse
- the patient’s children who are at least 18 years of age.
- the patient’s parents
- the patient’s adult brothers and sisters

DNR/AND order is explicit to resuscitative efforts for cardiopulmonary arrest. It does not imply that other treatments are to be forgone or reduced.

The patient’s physician is notified of DNR/AND status in another care setting, or expressed wishes by the patient/surrogate to avoid resuscitation attempts (either verbally or in a written "Advance Directive") in order that he/she can write appropriate orders for the current hospital stay.