



# PALLIATIVE CARE IN EMS

## WHY EMS HAS TO TAKE A DEEPER DIVE ON THE HOSPICE LANE

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June 15, 2023



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# Overview

- Palliative Care is common
- EMS – Palliative Care interactive is common
- Hospice disenrollment is common
- 9-1-1 utilization is common
- EMS skills in palliative care is **UN**common

# Guidelines?

- 6% of agencies nationwide report having prehospital palliative care protocols



Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management-EMS Division (OEM-EMS)

Resuscitation  
DO NOT RESUSCITATE  
Practice Guideline

**Palmed Care Status:**  
1. Respect for patient wishes of no resuscitation among during cardiac arrest.  
2. Consideration for patient wishes of DNR where official documents may not be readily available.

**Palmed Physiological Status:**  
**Notation: DNRs**  
1. In cardiac arrest wearing WI DNR bracelet  
2. In cardiac arrest with valid DNR or POLST papers  
3. Paper DNR/POLST order must be clearly stated AAO must be signed and dated by physician  
4. AAO must be legible, complete, signed and date have expired patient's wishes for DNR status.

**Obtaining a DNR bracelet or bracelet**  
Two types of DNR bracelets available (pictured on page 2):  
1) Plastic (D)bracelet which looks like a hospital band, resuscitation attempt by first responder and first aid.  
2) Metal bracelet which displays the internationally recognized symbol of DNR (a caduceus) and is used by the first responder and the words "Wisconsin DNR or Resuscitation Consent" and the qualified person's first and last name engraved on the back (purchased from State) and used for a first aid.

**State of WI DNR details- Qualified patients:**  
• 65+ yrs  
• Terminal condition OR  
• Medical condition where resuscitation would cause repeated cardiopulmonary failure within short time or would not restore cardiopulmonary function OR  
• Resuscitation would cause significant physical pain or harm that would outweigh resuscitation recovery odds

**Revoke an existing DNR order:**  
The patient or legal guardian or healthcare provider may revoke a DNR order at any time by:  
1) Expressing the choice to the rescuer(s).  
2) Defacing, cutting or destroying the DNR bracelet OR  
3) Removing the DNR bracelet.

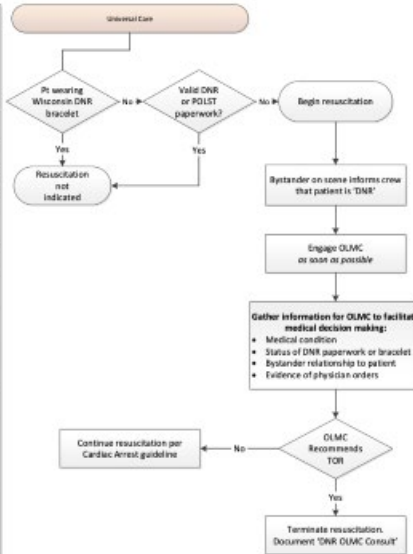
**POLST (Physician Order for Life Sustaining Treatment) is a legal document for people with advanced disease that specifies the type of care a person would like in an emergency medical situation.**

**Quality Improvement:**  
1. DNR cannot be immediately confirmed, begin resuscitation and engage OLMC early.  
2. Detail cases of POLST with the DNR discovery.

**Key Documentation elements:**  
1. Evidence of DNR or POLST status  
2. Any consent received from DNR or POLST status  
3. OLMC Engagement  
4. Resuscitation details

**Resuscitation may be discontinued without OLMC upon verification of valid DNR in any public during resuscitative attempt**

**Note:**  
Contact OLMC as early as possible in questionable cases of DNR.  
Resuscitation engage family/next-of-kin/health care provider in comprehensive discussion early on.  
Respect patients may or may not be DNR.



Initiated: 05/10/2000  
Reviewed/Revised: 06/15/2020  
Revision 9

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Approved: Dan Poler, BS/MS, EPC, NRP EMS Division Director  
WI DHS EMS Approval: 06/15/2020

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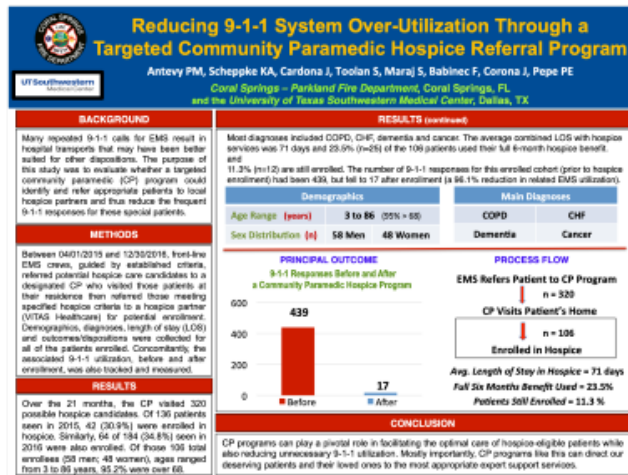
# It Works...

- Ventura County, CA
- Fort Worth, TX
- Coral Springs, FL



## Effect of a Mobile Integrated Hospice Healthcare Program on Emergency Medical Services Transport to the Emergency Department

Amelia Breyre, Michael Taigman, Angelo Salvucci & Karl Sporer



Source: YouTube



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