ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 1 March 2022
Response Date: 2 March 2022
Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

The requestor asked ASPR TRACIE for articles specific to do-not-resuscitate/do-not-intubate (DNR/DNI) orders and historical policies during crisis.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team reviewed existing materials in our resource library. We also conducted a search online for relevant materials and suggest the following resources for consideration:


The author of this study assessed which states have statutes governing DNR orders for the prehospital setting, which statutes authorize DNR orders in ways other than by specific state statute, and identified those states that had regional protocols that address prehospital DNR orders.


This brief article provides opinions of healthcare professionals related to DNR orders during a public health crisis.


This article addresses the misconception that circulated during the COVID-19 pandemic when Idaho declared crisis standards of care (CSC). There was confusion related to what that declaration meant; some thought patients would not be revived if their hearts stopped in a hospital. The author also provides a list of what must happen before any DNR order can be acted upon during a CSC declaration.


This article, dated from 1993, provides a historical perspective of prehospital DNR systems that were in place for emergency medical service (EMS) providers. At that time,
policies stated that EMS providers must resuscitate all patients who access the system, regardless of the patients’ wishes and what makes ethical or economic sense.


This article addresses gaps identified by a panel of experts related to planning for a public health disaster and national guidelines for making ethical and medical decisions in crisis situations. One expert noted that DNR status has been considered in allocation of scarce resources schemes in the past. However, the same expert noted that DNR orders are not useful parameters for considering the allocation of scarce resources.


This article addresses the legal foundation for crisis clinical DNR orders during catastrophic pandemics such as COVID-19.


The authors of this study conducted three focus groups with participants at the National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians meeting in January 2008 to identify themes regarding EMS policies and perceptions specific to the Termination of Resuscitation (TOR) protocols. The authors noted that public policies and local perceptions may serve as barriers or facilitators to implementing national TOR guidelines at the local level. NOTE: Users must download the PDF version of this resource.


This article addresses the predicaments doctors experienced at Memorial Medical Center in New Orleans, LA after Hurricane Katrina, including whether patients with DNR orders should receive the lowest priority for evacuation.