

Title 25. Health Services
Part I. Texas Department of Health
Chapter 157. Emergency Medical Care
Subchapter B. Emergency Medical Services Provider Licenses
Amendment §157.25

Adoption Preamble

The Texas Department of Health (department) adopts an amendment to §157.25 concerning the Out-Of-Hospital Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) identification devices, and is adopted with changes to the proposed text as published in the September 22, 2000, issue of the Texas Register (25 TexReg 9390).

The amendment will give consumers greater choice in DNR devices by allowing more businesses to comply with the department rules in supplying the DNR identification devices. The amendment affects the specifications of DNR identification devices and will allow more businesses to become vendors of the DNR identification devices.

No public comments were received on the rule. However, the department is making the following changes, due to staff comments.

Concerning §157.25(i)(1) and (2), "may be honored" was changed to "shall be honored" to make it consistent with statutory language.

Concerning §157.25(i)(3), new language was added to meet statutory requirements.

The amendment is adopted under the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 166, which provides the Board of Health (board) with the authority to adopt and amend rules to implement the Advanced Directives Act; and §12.001, which provides the board with the authority to adopt and amend rules for the performance of every duty imposed by law on the board, the department, and the commissioner of health.

Legend: (Final Amendments – With additional changes not proposed)

Double underline = New language not proposed

Brackets = Proposed new language now being deleted

Regular Print = Current language incorporating proposed changes for final adoption

(No change) = No changes are being considered for the designated subdivision

§157.25 Out-of-Hospital Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section shall be to establish a statewide DNR protocol as required in the Health and Safety Code, Title 2, Chapter 166.

(b) DNR order. A DNR order may be issued by an attending physician for any patient. That attending physician has responsibility for ensuring that the form is filled out in its entirety and that the

information regarding the existence of a DNR order is entered into the patient's medical record.

(c) Protocol development. A DNR protocol in accordance with this section, shall apply to all out-of-hospital settings including cardiac arrests which occur during interfacility transport. The protocol shall include the following:

(1) a copy of the Texas Department of Health (department) standardized DNR form listing the designated treatments that shall be withdrawn or withheld. Those treatments shall be:

- (A) cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
- (B) advanced airway management;
- (C) artificial ventilation;
- (D) defibrillation; and
- (E) transcutaneous cardiac pacing.

(2) an explanation of the patient identification process to include an option to use a department-standardized identification device such as a necklace or bracelet; and

(3) an on-site DNR dispute resolution process which includes contacting an appropriate physician.

(d) Recordkeeping. Records shall be maintained on each incident in which an out-of-hospital DNR order or DNR identification device is encountered by responding healthcare professionals, and the number of cases where there is an on-site revocation of the DNR order shall be recorded.

(1) The data documented should include:

- (A) an assessment of patient's physical condition;
- (B) whether an identification device or a DNR form was used to confirm DNR status and patient identification number;
- (C) any problems relating to the implementation of the DNR order;
- (D) the name of the patient's attending physician; and
- (E) the full name, address, telephone number, and relationship to patient of any witness used to identify the patient.

(2) If the patient is transported, the original DNR order or a copy of the original order will be kept with the patient.

(3) Copies of the original DNR order may be put on file with concerned parties, and the original order shall remain in the possession of the patient, a legal guardian, or the healthcare facility responsible for the patient's care.

(4) At the time of relicensure, the out-of-hospital provider shall submit a report to the Bureau of Emergency Management with the following information:

(A) number of times personnel have been presented with DNR documentation;

(B) number of times there was a problem and the DNR order could not be honored; and

(C) any problems that were encountered using the standardized form.

(e) Out-of-state DNR Orders. Personnel may accept an out-of-hospital DNR order or device that has been executed in any other state, if there is no reason to question the authenticity of the order or device.

(f) Failure to honor a DNR order. If there are any indications of unnatural or suspicious circumstances, the provider shall begin resuscitation efforts until such time as a physician directs otherwise.

(g) Pregnant persons. A person may not withhold the designated treatments listed in subsection (c)(1) from a person known by responding healthcare professionals to be pregnant.

(h) DNR Form. The Bureau of Emergency Management or their appointees shall furnish DNR forms to physicians, clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, hospices and home health agencies throughout the state upon request.

(1) The form shall contain all the information as prescribed in the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 166.

(2) The form shall be 8-1/2 inches by 11 inches, printed front and back, and in the format specified by the board as follows.

Figure: 25 TAC, §157.25(h)(2) (No change.)

(i) Identification devices. As an optional means of identification, a patient may obtain, at patient's expense, an Out-of-Hospital (OOH) DNR device. An OOH DNR device, as approved by the Texas Department of Health, must meet the following requirements:

(1) An intact, unaltered, easily identifiable plastic identification OOH DNR bracelet, with

the word "Texas" (or a representation of the geographical shape of Texas and the word "STOP" imposed over the shape) and the words "Do Not Resuscitate", shall **[may]** be honored by qualified EMS personnel in lieu of an original OOH DNR Order form.

(2) An intact, unaltered, easily identifiable metal bracelet or necklace inscribed with the words, "Texas Do Not Resuscitate – OOH" shall **[may]** be honored by qualified EMS personnel in lieu of an OOH DNR Order form.

(3) The person or entity who provides an OOH DNR identification device to an individual shall send with the identification device a statement with the words, "Pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code, §166.090 this identification device may only be worn by a person who has executed a valid out-of-hospital DNR order."