

HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

North Carolina Department of Public Safety
Division of Adult Correction

SECTION: Administrative- Death and Dying

POLICY # AD V -7

SUBJECT: Recognition of DNR Status

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EFFECTIVE DATE: January 2012

SUPERCEDES DATE: None

PURPOSE

To establish a uniform color-coded wristband system for the clear identification and communication of individuals who choose to exercise his/her right to a natural death, specifically, "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) or "No Code" status.

POLICY

This policy establishes a clear and universal identifiable system in the North Carolina Department of Public Safety to identify individuals who choose a right to a natural death. The Division of Adult Correction (formerly Division of Prisons) treatment philosophy recognizes and upholds an individual's rights and that a patient or his representative has the fundamental right to control decisions relating to the rendering of his/her own medical care, including the decision to have extraordinary means withheld or withdrawn. "Purple" colored wristbands will identify those inmates that have a DNR or No Code status.

PROCEDURE

When there is a declaration for "Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)" or "No Code" status by the inmate/patient or an individual acting on the behalf of the declarant, Nursing Staff will:

1. Verify status is documented in a written order by the attending provider.
2. Verify NC.DHHS/DSS/DFS/EMS Do Not Resuscitation Order form is complete and in medical record. Request DNR forms from Health Services Risk Manager.
3. Request purple wristband from Health Services Risk Manager. Email a request to Health Services Risk Manger. Include Patient's name, OPUS number, Facility name, Medical Diagnosis.
4. Verify patient's identification.
5. Place wristband on inmate/patient left wrist, except in circumstances involving a restricted extremity.
 - a. Write name and OPUS number on the purple wristband.
6. Educate patient regarding the purpose of the purple wristband.
7. Instruct patient not to remove the wristband and to wear the wristband at all times.
8. Instruct the patient that if wristbands falls off or is removed, nursing staff must be notified ASAP.
9. Document on the DC 387 Chronological Record of Healthcare Inpatient/Outpatient Note the application of the purple wristband and patient education.
10. Review the DNR status at least annually or earlier if:
 - a. Inmate is admitted or discharged from an inpatient healthcare facility
 - b. Patient is scheduled for any invasive procedures
 - c. Inmate transfers to another facility. The receiving facility is responsible for reassessing and confirming purple wristband status
 - d. There is a substantial change in the inmate's health status
 - e. Inmate's treatment preferences change
11. Document on the DC 442 Refusing Health Care Against Orders and the DC 387 Chronological Record of Healthcare Inpatient/Outpatient Note patient's/inmate's refusal to wear purple wristbands.

References

Health Care Procedure Manual Policy:

1. AD IV-5 Inmate Right to Refuse Medical Treatment
2. AD V-1 Rights to Natural Death
3. AD V-5 Revocation of DNR Orders
4. AD V-6 Right to Healthcare Decisions

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1/31/12

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Date

SOR: Medical Director, Director of Nursing