

Overview of the Division's Non-Hospital DNR Procedure for Persons in Contracted Services

This overview is intended to inform individuals, family members, and health care agents of the Division's procedure on how to obtain, and implement non-hospital DNR orders in DMH facilities. While the Division supports the right of individuals to obtain, refuse, or discontinue life-sustaining treatment, the Division may only recognize a Non-Hospital Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order in contracted service for those individuals who have been diagnosed with a terminal condition. A terminal condition is defined as "an incurable or irreversible condition which, in the opinion of the attending physician, is such that death will occur within a short time regardless of the application of medical procedures" (RSMo. 459.010). The Division defines "short period" as six (6) months or less. The Division's role is to assure that the individual's level of functioning is not the primary consideration in the decision to issue or execute a "do not resuscitate" order.

Prior to obtaining a non-hospital DNR order from your physician, the support coordinator will provide you with the form "Statement of Terminal Condition". The form should be completed and returned to your support coordinator.

Once the request has been authorized by the Department of Mental Health's Medical Director, the support coordinator will provide you with a Non-Hospital DNR order form to be completed by the physician. The order will be maintained in the individual's record in their home and a copy in the Regional Office record, as well as other applicable settings such as day program etc.

If the act of CPR is contraindicated because of a physical or medical condition, the physician should define the appropriate emergency response on the "Alternative to CPR" form and this should be maintained in the individual's home record, copied to the Regional Office, and the information should be included in the individual support plan.

If the request for a non-hospital DNR is not authorized because the individual does not meet the Department's definition of terminal, you will be notified and may appeal this decision to the Department of Mental Health's Medical Director within 30 days.