



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Randall W. Williams, MD, FACOG
Director



Michael L. Parson
Governor

DATE: July 10, 2018
TO: Licensed Missouri EMS Services
FROM: Terry Ellsworth
Chief, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
RE: Out of Hospital Do Not Resuscitate Issues

The Bureau of EMS (BEMS) has been made aware that there may be some confusion regarding the Outside the Hospital Do Not Resuscitate form (OHDNR Form) created in regulation under the authority of 190.600-190.621 RSMO. To assist in clearing up any misconceptions, please take note of the following:

1. Per in 19CSR30-40.303, all EMS services are required to establish a do-not resuscitate protocol. This requirement does not mandate the use of a specific form, but does require the medical director of a service to approve a plan that addresses how their EMS personnel address patient care when presented with any OHDNR situation in field.
2. The creation of the OHDNR Form in 19CSR30-40.600 did not mandate its use, or delegitimize any other legally executed form, living will, or advanced directive a patient determines legally expresses their wish not to be resuscitated should they suffer a cardiac arrest.
3. The creation of the form was intended to give patients the choice to utilize a quickly recognizable form which also offered statutory liability to protection to healthcare professionals when honoring the wishes of a patient when presented with a properly executed form. It in no way mandated the use of the form.

Your efforts to provide quality EMS care to your community are greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to contact the BEMS at 573-751-6356 or via email @EMSlicensing@health.mo.gov, if you have any questions or concerns.

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