

# REGULATION

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

---

**Related Entries:**

**Responsible Office:** Deputy Superintendent of Schools

### Do Not Resuscitate Orders

#### I. PURPOSE

To provide procedures when students have Emergency Medical Services (EMS) “Do Not Resuscitate Orders.”

#### II. BACKGROUND

MCPS recognizes that students with life-threatening health problems may attend school with valid EMS “Do Not Resuscitate Orders.” Parents/guardians have the right to make decisions regarding health care measures for their children. However, the school environment must be orderly, safe, and free from threats to the well-being of all students. The death of a student on school premises can be traumatic for both students and staff. Therefore, implementation of an EMS “Do Not Resuscitate Order” in the school setting must be individually evaluated and addressed on a case-by-case basis using the procedures described below.

#### III. DEFINITIONS

- A. An *EMS “Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order”* is a written physician order on the Maryland Emergency Medical Services “Do Not Resuscitate Order” form stating that cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and other invasive medical procedures are not to be administered in the event of a life-threatening medical episode with an individual.
- B. *Health Services Professionals* are physicians, certified nurse practitioners, or registered nurses with experience and/or special training in working with children and families in school health programs.
- C. *EMS Palliative Care/ Do Not Resuscitate Protocols* are standardized health care guidelines from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems to provide reassurance and comfort to an individual who is experiencing a life-threatening medical episode. The guidelines do not include the use of CPR or other invasive life-sustaining medical procedures. The individual is provided with comfort measures such as oxygen administration.

- D. An *Emergency Medical Services "Do Not Resuscitate Order" Form* is an official, numbered order form with coinciding numbered personal identification bracelet that is used to identify an individual with a valid DNR order. If 911 is called and the original order form or bracelet is shown, life support will not be given by emergency personnel. Comfort measures will be administered.

#### IV. PROCEDURES

- A. The school health nurse will be notified by parents of all students who are identified as having a Maryland EMS "Do Not Resuscitate Order." The school health nurse will:

1. Notify the principal and, if necessary, assist the parent/guardian in obtaining the EMS "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) and Medical Order Form.

Ensure that all students have a current valid EMS "Do Not Resuscitate Order" and Medical Care Order Form or bracelet.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to obtain the signed order. The bracelet is to be worn by the student at all times in order to assure proper identification. The bracelet will be promptly displayed to emergency medical personnel responding to a school emergency.

2. Place a copy of the signed EMS "Do Not Resuscitate Order" form in the student health folder. The number on the form and the number on the bracelet must match.
3. Meet with the parent/guardian and prepare an individual health care plan if one does not already exist. Consult with the physician regarding the health care plan.
4. Train school and transportation staff on a "need to know" basis.

Training should include information on the specifics of the student's condition and individual health care plan, information on the EMS "Do Not Resuscitate Order," bracelet, EMS Do Not Resuscitate Protocol, and any other related concerns.

5. Make a nursing assessment of the needs of the student population regarding education and counseling in the event that the EMS "Do Not Resuscitate Order" is implemented for an individual during school hours.

- B. Prior to final acceptance of the EMS "Do Not Resuscitate Order," the principal will hold at least one planning meeting with the parent/guardian, school health nurse, a representative from the transportation office (if applicable), the physician (if possible), local emergency responders, and the student, if appropriate, to clarify the specific expectations for the care of the student.
  
- C. The EMS Do Not Resuscitate Medical Protocol will not be implemented unless:
  - 1. The school receives a valid EMS "Do Not Resuscitate Order" from a physician licensed in Maryland stating that the student should not receive CPR in the event of a medical crisis. The order is required to be on the Maryland EMS "Do Not Resuscitate Order" form.
  - 2. The parent/guardian has notified the school in writing of their agreement with the EMS "Do Not Resuscitate Order."
  - 3. The school health nurse receives clarification of the scope of the EMS "Do Not Resuscitate Order," including an explanation of the specific procedures that are permitted and those that are prohibited.
  - 4. Appropriate training, on a "need to know" basis has been conducted by the school health nurse, including an explanation of the permitted and prohibited procedures.
  - 5. A formal written health care plan has been developed by the designated school health services professional, with input from the physician and the parent/guardian, and signed by the parent/guardian, physician, school administrator, and student, if appropriate.

D. Medical Crisis

All students who are experiencing a medical crisis will receive routine measures for first-aid and CPR in the absence of a signed individual plan. Actions of first responders will be guided by procedures found in the School Health First Aid Manual, and by training received during certification courses in first aid and CPR.

E. Confidentiality

Student confidentiality must be maintained. The parent/guardian will be consulted as to the disclosure of the student's medical condition to school staff and students. The principal, in collaboration with the parent/guardian, will decide which school personnel should be informed of the student's condition.

## F. Review of Plan

EMS “Do Not Resuscitate Orders” and related individual health care plans must be reviewed as needed, and at least annually, to determine continued appropriateness. The parent/guardian must be involved in the review and must sign the order. A physician contact should be made in all cases. A review should be documented in the student health record. The parent/guardian should sign the individual health care plan at least annually.

## G. Rescission of Order

If an EMS “Do Not Resuscitate Order” is rescinded, the parent/guardian must immediately inform the school principal in writing. The principal will immediately inform the school health nurse who will write “DISCONTINUED” in RED across the EMS “Do Not Resuscitate Order”. The principal and school health nurse will be jointly responsible for informing appropriate school personnel that the EMS “Do Not Resuscitate Order” has been discontinued. The school health nurse will revise the individual health care plan to reflect the change in order and the student’s current needs.

*Regulation History:* New Regulation, July 23, 1997; revised November 19, 2007.