

	Department Name Address	ALS	Paramedic
		Revision #	
		Implementation Date	
Protocol	1.0.8 Withholding or Discontinuing Resuscitation – All Levels	Last Reviewed/Update Date	
Author / Owner		Medical Director	

All patients found in cardiac arrest will receive resuscitative efforts per protocol. If you are unsure, begin resuscitation until you are certain that you may stop. The EMS provider may choose not to resuscitate or discontinue resuscitation in the following circumstances.

1. Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order is presented to the ambulance crew. A DNR is a valid physician's order to forgo resuscitative efforts. The DNR must be signed by a physician. If the EMS provider is unsure as to the validity of the DNR contact medical control for orders.
2. An advanced directive, otherwise known as a living will or health care directive is presented to the ambulance crew. An advanced directive is essentially a letter to a physician from the patient or responsible party outlining what care they wish to receive or not receive in the event they are incapacitated. To honor an advanced directive for a patient in cardiac arrest the EMS provider must:
 - Verify that the advanced directive specifically states that the patient does not want resuscitation in the event of cardiac arrest.
 - Contact medical control and explain the situation. The physician may give a DNR order based on the advanced directive.
3. Do not attempt resuscitation in the cardiac arrest patient with:
 - Rigor Mortis.
 - Livor Mortis (lividity).
 - Decapitation.
 - Injuries incompatible with life.
 - Traumatic Asystole (ALS only).
4. EMS may discontinue resuscitative efforts in the event:
 - The EMS crew is too exhausted to continue CPR, or
 - 30 minutes of ALS resuscitation without producing a pulse, and
 - Concurrence of medical control to discontinue resuscitation.
 - Under direction of medical control.

EMS PROTOCOLS

1.0.8 WITHHOLDING OR DISCONTINUING RESUSCITATION – ALL LEVELS

DATE APPROVED

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Medical Director's Signature

Date

Disclaimer:

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