



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Service Regulation
Office of Emergency Medical Services

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MEMORANDUM

TO: EMS Providers
EMS Systems
EMS Medical Directors

FROM: Regina Godette-Crawford, Chief

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RGC", is written over the name "Regina Godette-Crawford" in the "FROM:" field.

SUBJECT: Authorized Signatures for Portable DNR Orders

DATE: May 19, 2011

The North Carolina Office of EMS and North Carolina Board of Nursing have received a number of questions regarding the legality of Physician Assistant (PA) and Nurse Practitioner (NP) signatures on portable DNR orders. To ensure the proper interpretation of the North Carolina General Statute regarding portable DNR orders, the North Carolina Medical Society sought the input of the North Carolina Medical Board.

The North Carolina Medical Board has determined that portable DNR orders signed and issued by PAs and NPs are legal and should be followed by all health care providers as if the orders were signed and issued by a physician.

A new version of the DNR form has been developed to reflect this interpretation. EMS personnel should honor the form if it is signed by the patient's physician, PA or NP.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 919.855.3935 or by email at regina.godette@dhhs.nc.gov.

cc: OEMS Staff

