

Understanding your DNR form

What does DNR mean?

DNR stands for “Do Not Resuscitate.” It notifies emergency and hospital personnel not to restart your heart or breathing once they have stopped. This means no cardiopulmonary resuscitation, including chest compressions. No electric shocks. No mouth-to-mouth breathing or a tube placed down your windpipe to be connected to a breathing machine. No use of medications that are intended to start the heart again.

Does being DNR mean that you will not be treated at all?

No, you will still receive treatment. For example, if you are having pain, you can receive pain medications. If you are short of breath, you can receive oxygen and/or a breathing treatment.

Where should I place my DNR form?

This form should be placed in plain view for emergency personnel to see, typically on the front of the refrigerator. If you are living within a care facility, the outside of the front door is also an acceptable location or just inside the house entrance.

Why is it important to have your DNR status known?

Without the proper documentation your wishes will not be followed and all measures will be pursued to resuscitate your body.

Who should you make aware of your wishes?

It is important to inform your family of your wishes so that if for some reason your DNR form is not found and followed, your family members can notify the emergency and/or hospital personnel. Also, let your medical power of attorney know so that if you are unable to make your own decisions he or she can fulfill your wishes. Additional people you may want to inform include your physicians and your clergy.

**Please complete the attached DNR form in its entirety. Including a recent photo is also advised. Once completed, place the form in one of the properly listed locations above.*