





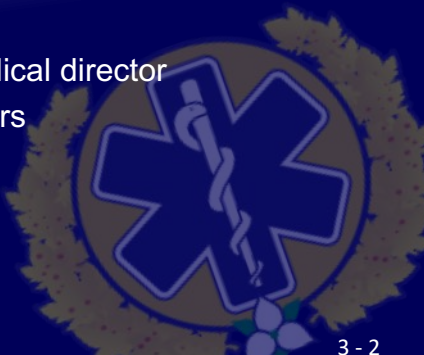
Emergency Medical Responder

LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES



When providing medical care, you should:

- 1) Follow standing orders and protocols
- 2) Consult medical control if questions arise about scope of practice or care
- 3) Communicate clearly with medical director
- 4) Follow medical director's orders

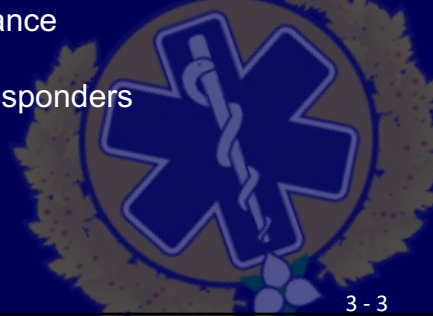


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Ethical Responsibilities

- 1) Make the physical and emotional needs of the patient a priority
- 2) Master your skills
- 3) Continue your education and take refresher courses
- 4) Critically review your performance
- 5) Report honestly
- 6) Work in harmony with other responders



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Two Types of Patient Consent

- Expressed
- Implied

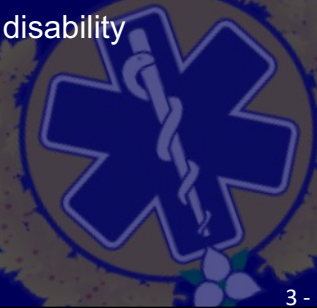


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An incompetent adult...

- 1) is under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- 2) has an altered mental status
- 3) has a serious illness or injury that may affect judgment
- 4) has a mental illness or intellectual disability

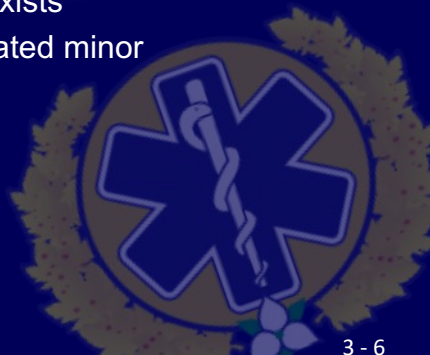


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A parent or guardian must give consent before you treat a minor, unless...

- a life threatening condition exists
- the individual is an emancipated minor



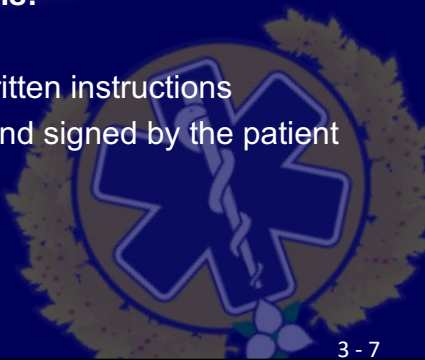
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Advanced Directives or Do Not Resuscitate Orders (DNRs)

Check whether or not the DNR is:

- 1) Physically present
- 2) Accompanied by a doctor's written instructions
- 3) Written clearly and concisely and signed by the patient



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PREHOSPITAL DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDERS

ATTENDING PHYSICIAN
In completing this prehospital DNR form, please check Part A if no intervention by prehospital personnel is indicated. Please check Part A and options from Part B if specific interventions by prehospital personnel are indicated. To give a valid prehospital DNR order, this form must be completed by the patient's attending physician and must be provided to prehospital personnel.

A) **Do Not Resuscitate (DNR):**
No Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation or Advanced Cardiac Life Support be performed by prehospital personnel

B) **Modified Support:**
Prehospital personnel administer the following checked options:

- Oxygen administration
- Full airway support: intubation, airways, bag/valve/mask
- Venuncture: IV crystals/uids and/or blood draw
- External cardiac pacing
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- Cardiac defibrillator
- Pneumatic anti-shock garment
- Ventilator
- ACLS meds
- Other interventions/medications (physician specify)

Prehospital personnel are informed that (print patient name) _____ should receive no resuscitation (DNR) or should receive Modified Support as indicated. This directive is medically appropriate and is further documented by a physician's order and a progress note on the patient's permanent medical record. Informed consent from the incapacitated patient or the incapacitated patient's legitimate surrogate is documented on the patient's permanent medical record. The DNR order is in full force and effect as of the date indicated below.

Attending Physician's Signature _____

Print Attending Physician's Name _____

Attending Physician's Telephone _____


Date _____

Print Patient's Name and Location (Home Address or Health Care Facility) _____

Expiration Date (6 Mos from Signature) _____

Figure 3-1 Example of an EMS do not resuscitate (DNR) order.

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RELEASE FROM RESPONSIBILITY WHEN PATIENT REFUSES SERVICE


This is to certify that I, _____ am refusing the service(s) of the Emergency Response Service and its staff and absolve the Service, its staff, and the consulting health care facility (if applicable) of any and all responsibility from any ill effects or adverse outcomes which may result from this action.

Signed _____ Witness _____

Relationship (if patient is a minor or under Order of Supervision) _____

Figure 3-2 Example of a patient refusal form.

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- Prior to leaving a scene after a patient refusal, you should:**
- 1) Try again to persuade the patient
 - 2) Ensure the patient is able to make an informed decision
 - 3) Have the patient sign the refusal
 - 4) Encourage the patient to seek help if symptoms persist
 - 5) Advise the patient to call EMS again if he/she changes their mind
- 3 -



Legal Aspects of Emergency Care

- **Common Assault** – Obtain consent before touching a patient's clothing or body
- **Abandonment** – Once care is started, you must continue until equally trained or higher-trained personnel take over
- **Negligence** – Your care must adhere to a standard of care

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Confidentiality

By law, you are allowed to release information without a patient's, parent's, or guardian's consent only if:

- 1) Another health care provider needs it
- 2) You are required by legal subpoena to provide it in court

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Volunteer Service Acts

While off duty, you may not be legally required to stop and assist at a scene, but there is a recognized duty to assist according to your level of certification when you do render help.



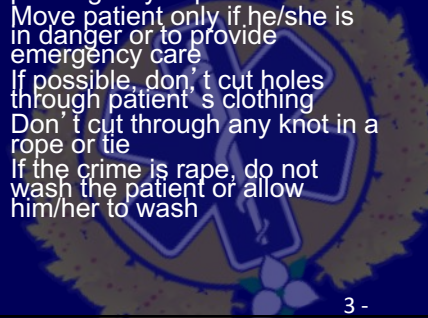
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Preservation of Evidence



- Observe and document anything unusual at the scene
- Touch only what you need to
- Move only what you need to move to protect the patient and provide emergency care
- Don't use the phone, unless police give you permission
- Move patient only if he/she is in danger or to provide emergency care
- If possible, don't cut holes through patient's clothing
- Don't cut through any knot in a rope or tie
- If the crime is rape, do not wash the patient or allow him/her to wash



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Special Situations

- Medical ID Tags
- Donor & Organ Harvesting



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