

Boards of Nursing and Medicine

Authority of Licensed Nurse Practitioners to write Do Not Resuscitate Orders (DNR Orders)

In the Health Care Decisions Act (§ 54.1-2981 et seq. of the Code of Virginia), § 54.1-2987.1 provides that a Durable Do Not Resuscitate Order may be issued by a physician. § 54.1-2957.02 provides that, “Whenever any law or regulation requires a signature...by a physician, it shall be deemed to include a signature...by a nurse practitioner.”

Therefore, the Boards of Nursing and Medicine concur with the Committee of the Joint Boards that licensed nurse practitioners have the statutory and regulatory authority to write Do Not Resuscitate Orders in accordance with §§ 54.1-2957.02 and 54.1-2987.1 of the Code of Virginia and 18VAC90-30-120 of the Virginia Administrative Code.

The authority for a nurse practitioner to write DNR orders must be included in the written or electronic practice agreement as a delegated act by the collaborating patient care team physician and must be performed in consultation with the physician, unless the nurse practitioner has been authorized by the board for autonomous practice.