

Board of Medicine

Authority of Physician Assistants to Write Do Not Resuscitate Orders

Section 54.1-2987.1 of the Health Care Decisions Act, Va. Code § 54.1-2981 *et seq.*, provides that a Durable Do Not Resuscitate (“DNR”) Order may be issued by a physician. Virginia Code § 54.1-2952.2 provides that, “[w]henever any law or regulation requires a signature...by a physician, it shall be deemed to include a signature...by a physician assistant.”

The Board of Medicine interprets these two statutory provisions to mean that licensed physician assistants have the statutory and regulatory authority to write DNR Orders.

The authority for a physician assistant to write DNR orders must be included in the written practice agreement as a delegated act by the collaborating patient care team physician and must be performed in consultation with the physician.