(A) Policy Statement

When an inpatient or an outpatient with a Do Not Resuscitate Comfort Care (DNRCC) or a DNRCC-Arrest Category of Care (DNR) order requires a procedure which has the potential of causing hemodynamic or pulmonary compromise, it is permissible to temporarily suspend the category of care order to allow for appropriate medical / surgical intervention.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To establish a process for temporarily suspending the DNR category of care orders of a patient when medical / surgical intervention is deemed appropriate by the physician and agreed to by the patient and/or decision maker.

To assure that a specific timeframe for suspension of a DNR has been established, appropriately documented, and agreed to by the patient and/or decision-maker.

(C) Procedure

1. Informed consent to a procedure which has the potential of causing hemodynamic or pulmonary compromise by a patient with a DNR category of care order shall include a discussion between the physician and the patient regarding the options and whether or not to temporarily suspend the DNR order, and notification of the attending physician or primary service, as appropriate. When a patient lacks decision-making capacity, the discussion should take place with the designated decision-maker and/or family (As defined in Policy No 3364-100-45-01, Do Not Resuscitate Orders (DNRCC & DNRCC-Arrest and Refusal of Life-Sustaining Treatments, section (D)(3)).

2. Prior to an agreement to temporarily suspend a DNR order, and if the patient will receive anesthesia services, an anesthesia consult will be obtained. Other services may be consulted as appropriate.

3. When agreement to temporarily suspend the DNR has been reached with the patient/designated decision-maker, the physician and the healthcare team, the physician shall enter a new order on the doctors’ order sheet (Progress Notes for outpatient areas) indicating the patient’s temporary full support status. Included in the order is the prescribed period of time for suspension. The order shall be dated, the time of writing recorded, and the physician’s or his/her designee’s signature shall follow.

For purposes of this policy, full support means all appropriate treatment, including Advanced Life Support (ALS) which includes, but is not limited to, the coordinated application of all measures needed to restore cardiac and ventilatory function, such as tracheal intubation, mechanical ventilation, external cardiac compression, electrocardioversion, defibrillation, extra-corpooreal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) pharmacotherapy, and other action outlined in the American Heart Association ALS protocol.

4. In the Progress Notes, the same physician shall write a note indicating the rationale for the temporary suspension of the existing order regarding the DNR category of care. Further, the physician shall record that the patient or decision-maker understood his/her recommendations and consented to the temporary suspension of the order for purposes of medical / surgical intervention.
5. The suspension of the DNR category of care order is only for the purpose of performing any procedure which has the potential of causing hemodynamic or pulmonary compromise. The temporary suspension will be in effect for a specifically prescribed period of time. The physician and the patient or decision-maker will be in agreement to the prescribed period of time.

6. When post procedure documentation orders are required by existing policy (ex: post operatively) an order to resume the DNR Category of Care MUST be written.

---

**Approved by:**

- Daniel Barbee, RN, BSN, MBA
  Chief Executive Officer - UTMC
  
  **Date:** 24 July 2017

- Samer Khouri, M.D.
  Chief of Staff
  
  **Date:** 7/28/17

- Linda Speer, MD
  Interim Chief Medical Officer
  
  **Date:** 7/26/17

---

**Review/Revision Date:**

- 9/11/2002
- 8/10/05
- 11/17/2010
- 11/1/2013
- 5/1/2017

**Next Review Date:** 5/1/2020

Policies Superseded by This Policy: 7-45-08 - DNRCC & DNRCC-Arrest (DNR’s) Temporary Suspension