California School Nurses Organization

Position Statement

DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR) STATEMENT

STATEMENT

The California School Nurses Organization recommends that Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders for students be evaluated on an individual basis at the local level, according to district policy and state and local laws. Each student involved must have an Individualized School Health Plan (ISHP) and an Emergency Care Plan developed by the credentialed school nurse with involvement from parents, administrators, physicians, teachers and the student, if appropriate. The Emergency care plan should include the following components:

- The plan specifies what actions the student’s teacher or other school employee should take if the student suffers a life-threatening incident; i.e. telephone the local emergency medical services, deliver emergency procedures as delineated in the plan, give comfort to the child, contact parent(s)/guardian(s), remove other children from the setting, etc.
- All school employees who may have supervision of the student during the school day must review and be trained in the individual procedures in the event of a life-threatening incident involving the student.
- It is the parent(s)/guardian(s) responsibility to communicate their wishes for the D.N.R. order to the local E.M.S.
- The credentialed school nurse and the physician need to assist parent(s)/guardian(s) and appropriate school personnel to review, as needed when warranted by a change in the student’s condition, but at least every 6 months, plans for in-school care.

In addition, school staff should be provided training, counseling and age-appropriate educational programs on death and dying. In the event of a student’s death, appropriate counseling should be provided to all staff and students, as needed.

RATIONALE

A DNR order is not synonymous with abandonment of all medical treatment and does not rescind the obligations of the health care team to provide quality care. With the increased number of students with chronic and terminal diseases still able to attend school, it is important that the credentialed school nurse work with the physician, the family and school personnel to provide guidance and advice that will continue a student’s education and participation for as long as reasonable.

References:


California School Nurse Organization Position Statement Adopted: 11/98, Statement Last Revised 11/10 Board of Directors, California School Nurses Organization