Reviewing Life-Sustaining Treatment (LST) Orders (including DNR) Prior to Procedures

Existing LST orders—including DNR orders—must not be automatically suspended prior to a procedure.

Before procedures involving general anesthesia, initiation of hemodialysis, cardiac catheterization, EP studies, or any procedure that poses a high risk of serious arrhythmia or cardiopulmonary arrest:

1. **Discuss with patient (or surrogate) whether to maintain or change LST orders**
   a. **Review the LST progress note** (in the Postings section of the cover sheet) and existing LST orders.
   b. **Talk to the patient (or surrogate)** during the informed consent process about the risks/benefits/expected outcomes associated with maintaining or changing LST orders.
   c. **Make shared decisions** about whether maintaining or changing LST orders is consistent with the patient’s goals and preferences. Obtain oral consent for any changes to the LST plan.

2. **Document the conversation**
   Document any changes to the LST plan in an **addendum** to the LST progress note, or write a **new** LST progress note.

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2. **Document the conversation**
   Document any changes to the LST plan in an **addendum** to the LST progress note, or write a **new** LST progress note.
3. Write new LST orders if appropriate:

For patients with a DNR order who would want CPR during a specific procedure:

   a. **Discontinue the existing DNR order.**

   b. **Write a DNR WITH EXCEPTION order,** clearly specifying the agreed-upon circumstances under which the patient would and would not be resuscitated. BE PRECISE — it should be immediately apparent to anyone who reads the order whether the patient should be resuscitated, without having to gather additional information.

   **Example 1:** DNR with exception: ONLY attempt CPR during the following procedure: cardiac catheterization.

   **Example 2:** DNR with exception. ONLY attempt CPR during the following procedure: hemodialysis.

For patients who would want OTHER LSTs during the procedure but not under other circumstances:

   a. **Discontinue LST orders that no longer apply.**

   **Example:** D/C order for “No invasive mechanical ventilation.”

   b. **Write new LST orders reflecting patient’s wishes, using the LST Order menu.**

   **Example:** Limit mechanical ventilation as follows: Invasive mechanical ventilation allowed during the perioperative period only; no permanent mechanical ventilation.

For patients who would want OTHER LSTs during the procedure but not under other circumstances:

   a. **Discontinue the existing DNR order.**

   b. **Write a DNR WITH EXCEPTION order,** clearly specifying the agreed-upon circumstances under which the patient would and would not be resuscitated. BE PRECISE — it should be immediately apparent to anyone who reads the order whether the patient should be resuscitated, without having to gather additional information.

   **Example 1:** DNR with exception: ONLY attempt CPR during the following procedure: cardiac catheterization.

   **Example 2:** DNR with exception. ONLY attempt CPR during the following procedure: hemodialysis.