

## 1. Untitled Scene

### 1.1 Definitions

 Massachusetts  
Department of  
Developmental  
Services (DDS)

# End-Of-Life Definitions

Here are some terms that frequently come up in the [modules on end-of-life and intellectual disabilities](#).

*The information presented here is specific to the Massachusetts DDS*

-  **Do Not Resuscitate Order**
-  **DNR Examples**
-  **Do Not Intubate**
-  **Guardian and Healthcare Agent**

## 1.2 DNR Examples



# DNR Examples

If a person **chooses not to be revived** if their heart stops beating or if they stop breathing, they may consult with their doctor about a DNR order. The DNR is signed by a doctor and the person or a person who is authorized to sign on their behalf.

When would you consider putting a DNR order in place? The next few slides give examples and case studies.

### 1.3 DNI



## **Do Not Intubate (DNI)**

**Do Not Intubate, or DNI,** is a **medical order** that instructs health providers not to attempt intubation or artificial ventilation in the event of respiratory distress.

## 1.4 Learn more about DNI

### Learn more about Massachusetts DNI by clicking on the boxes below

Does a DNI prohibit health providers from performing chest compressions?

How is a DNI different from a DNR order?

How does someone indicate that they want a DNI?

## Learn more about Massachusetts DNI by clicking on the boxes below

Does a DNI prohibit health providers from performing chest compressions?

No, a DNI order does not prohibit providers from performing chest compressions and cardiac medication.

How is a DNI different from a DNR order?

How does someone indicate that they want a DNI?

## Learn more about Massachusetts DNI by clicking on the boxes below

Does a DNI prohibit health providers from performing chest compressions?

- A DNR order almost always includes a DNI, but a DNI order can stand alone.
- If the person has both a DNR and a DNI order, then all resuscitation efforts would be withheld.

How is a DNI different from a DNR order?

How does someone indicate that they want a DNI?

## How to indicate? (Slide Layer)

### Learn more about Massachusetts DNI by clicking on the boxes below

Does a DNI prohibit health providers from performing chest compressions?

How is a DNI different from a DNR order?

How does someone indicate that they want a DNI?

A DNI order must be written on the MOLST form. The MOLST can be signed by a competent individual, family member, or Health Care Proxy agent without court authorization. A DNI order requires substitute judgment by a court if it is to be entered by a guardian.

## 1.5 DNI and MOLST

# DNI & End of Life Orders (MOLST)

If someone does not want a breathing tube put into their lungs, then the DNI order must be written on a specific form, which you can see to the right. It's called the Massachusetts MOLST form.

Click below for more information on MOLST

What is MOLST?

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL ORDERS for LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT (MOLST) <a href="http://www.molst-ma.org">www.molst-ma.org</a>		Patient's Name _____
		Date of Birth _____
		Medical Record Number if applicable _____
<b>INSTRUCTIONS:</b> Every patient should receive full attention to comfort. → This form should be signed based on goals of care discussions between the patient (or patient's representative signing below) and the signing clinician. → Sections A-C are valid orders only if Sections D and E are complete. Section F is valid only if Sections D and E are complete. → If any section is not completed, there is no limitation on the treatment indicated in that section. → This form is effective immediately upon signature. Photocopy, fax or electronic copies of properly signed MOLST forms are valid.		
<b>A</b> See also order # _____ Non-urgent	<b>CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION:</b> for a patient in cardiac or respiratory arrest <input type="radio"/> Do not resuscitate <input type="radio"/> Resuscitate	
<b>B</b> See also order # _____ Non-urgent	<b>VENTILATION:</b> for a patient in respiratory distress <input type="radio"/> Do not intubate and ventilate <input type="radio"/> Intubate and ventilate <input type="radio"/> Do Not Use Non-invasive Ventilation (e.g. CPAP) <input type="radio"/> Use Non-invasive Ventilation (e.g. BiPAP)	
<b>C</b> See also order # _____ Non-urgent	<b>TRANSFER TO HOSPITAL:</b> <input type="radio"/> Do Not Transfer to Hospital (unless needed for comfort) <input type="radio"/> Transfer to Hospital	
<b>PATIENT</b> or patient's representative signs here <b>D</b> Required Mark one circle only. See also Page 1.	<b>Mark one circle below to indicate who is signing Section D:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Patient <input type="radio"/> Health Care Agent <input type="radio"/> Guardian <input type="radio"/> Patient's Representative <input type="radio"/> Paralegal/Guardian of minor Signature of patient confirms this form also signed if patient's own free will and reflects his/her wishes and goals of care as expressed in the Section D sign. Signature by the patient's representative (indicated above) confirms that this form reflects his/her assessment of the patient's wishes and goals of care. In all other cases, the above, higher assessment of the patient's best interests. *If guardian can sign only in the event permitted by 89B law. Consult legal counsel with questions about a guardian's authority.	Signature of Patient or Person Representing the Patient _____ Date of Signature _____ Legible Printed Name of Signer _____ Telephone Number of Signer _____
<b>DO NOT SIGN</b> signature <b>E</b> Required Mark one circle only. See also Page 1.	Signature of physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant confirms that this form accurately reflects his/her discussion with the signer in Section D. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Signature of Physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician Assistant <input type="radio"/> Signature of Physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician Assistant	Date and Time of Signature _____ Legible Printed Name of Signer _____ Telephone Number of Signer _____

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## DNI & End of Life Orders (MOLST)

If someone does not want a breathing tube put into their lungs, then the DNI order must be written on a specific form, which you can see to the right. It's called the Massachusetts MOLST form.

Click below for more information on MOLST

What is MOLST?

MOLST stands for Medical Orders Life Sustaining Treatment. We'll cover the Massachusetts form in a separate training, but MOLST includes more end of life treatment options than just Ventilation.

Ventilation is just one section on the MOLST form.

Close

## 1.6 Case study

# Would you put a DNR order in place?

Your brother just had his 40th birthday. Although he is in good health, you and your family are starting to think about his future. One of the many things you think about is what happens at the end of his life. He is fully competent.



**Should you and your brother ask his doctor to put a DNR order in place at this point?**

Answer

## Answer (Slide Layer)

While you and your brother could start thinking about what his wishes might be when the time comes, now is not the time to consider a DNR or DNI order.

A better option for this type of planning is **Five Wishes**, which is an end of life planning tool that can be used by relatively young people, who are still in good health. A complete training is here: <http://shriver.umassmed.edu/programs/cdder/aging-idd-education/FiveWishes>

It's also important to create a **health care proxy** for your brother to ensure his wishes described in the Five Wishes process are honored.

\*This is an example only. Questions on specific cases should be directed to the DDS area legal office.

Close

## 1.7 Consider this scenario

# Consider this scenario

But let's say your brother is 62 and has advanced stage Alzheimer's disease. Complications from the disease have left him medically fragile. He was placed in a nursing home several months ago, when he could no longer take care of even basic daily needs.

**In this case, is it appropriate to consider a DNR order?**



[Answer](#)

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## Consider this scenario

Yes, it would be appropriate in this case because he has late stage Alzheimer's disease and is medically fragile. In this case, he meets one or more of the following:

- Life threatening illness or injury
- Chronic progressive disease
- Dementia
- Serious chronic health condition that requires or will require advanced medical interventions
- Any "advanced" debilitating disease process

\*This is an example only. Questions on specific cases should be directed to the DDS area legal office.



Close

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## 1.8 Gur/HCA



# Guardians and Health Care Agents

There are important differences between the roles of Health Care Agent, Guardian and Expanded Guardian.

*Click on the boxes below to learn more*

Health Care  
Agent/Proxy

Guardian

Expanded  
Guardian

## HCA (Slide Layer)



A **health care proxy (HCP)** is a **legal document** that allows a **legally competent person** to **name someone they know and trust to make health care decisions** for them if they become incapacitated. This includes end-of life decisions.

This person is called the **Health Care Agent**.

Close

Health Care  
Agent/Proxy

Guardian

Expanded  
Guardian

## Guardian (Slide Layer)

Under Massachusetts law, a **guardian** is someone appointed by the court when a person is **not legally competent** to make informed decisions regarding health, financial and other personal matters.

- The guardian can be anyone, including a family **member**, or **someone else** who represents the **person's best interests**.
- The court determines **competence based on a clinical team report** and **appoints** a guardian.

Close

Health Care  
Agent/Proxy

Guardian

Expanded  
Guardian



## Expanded (Slide Layer)



In Massachusetts, when **extraordinary medical decisions** need to be made, such as signing a MOLST form or other end of life decisions, the court can grant **expanded decision-making authority** to the guardian. Without this, the court would need to **decide major medical decisions on behalf of the person**. The expanded guardianship essentially gives this authority to the guardian.

Close

Health Care  
Agent/Proxy

Guardian

Expanded  
Guardian

## 1.9 DNR



### Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)

- If a person **chooses not to be revived** if their heart stops beating or if they stop breathing, they may consult with their doctor about a DNR order.

When is a DNR appropriate?

- If someone has a DNR order, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) should not be started.
- The DNR order is part of the person's medical record.

DNR and End of Life Orders

## When is DNR appropriate (Slide Layer)

A DNR order is considered when one or more of the following conditions exist:

- Life threatening illness of injury
- Chronic progressive disease
- Dementia
- Serious chronic health condition that requires or will require advanced medical interventions
- Any "advanced" debilitating disease process
- A DNR may also be considered if a person is elderly or frail.

Close

- If someone has a DNR order, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) should not be started.
- The DNR order is part of the person's medical record.

DNR and End of Life Orders

## 1.10 WHEN would you consider putting a DNR order in place?

### WHEN would you consider putting a DNR order in place?

In Massachusetts, the person, with their treatment team, should consider a DNR order only when one or more of the following conditions exist:

- Life threatening illness of injury
- Chronic progressive disease
- Dementia
- Serious chronic health condition that requires or will require advanced medical interventions
- Any "advanced" debilitating disease process
- A DNR order may also be considered if a person is elderly or frail.

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