

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXECUTING EMS COMFORT CARE ORDERS

- The Emergency Medical Services Comfort Care Order (EMS CCO) is a 4 part (white, yellow, blue and pink), sequentially numbered document printed on security paper with three (3) bracelet inserts, accompanied by a temporary, plastic ID bracelet.
- Any competent person, over the age of eighteen, an authorized decision maker on behalf of the incapacitated person or a surrogate on behalf of a minor may execute a CCO.
- The patient must consult with his or her attending physician. The physician must then complete the following steps:
 - Determine if the CCO is medically appropriate for the patient,
 - Explain:
 - the effect of the CCO and the alternatives, including restorative medical treatment
 - the difference between a CCO and other forms of advance directives (i.e., the Living Will Declaration and the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care)
 - the proper response to end of life events, such as when to call 911, what to do upon an expected death and when to call the funeral home
 - how the CCO is revoked (see Instructions for Revoking CCO)
- Ensure that the EMS Comfort Care Order is completed properly:
 - Complete **all** information required in Section A.
 - Complete the Physician's Certification by identifying the patient's medical or terminal condition that makes a CCO appropriate.
 - Sign and print attending physician name, date, license number and phone number.
 - Review the form with the patient, patient's authorized decision maker or surrogate to make sure he or she understands and is able to provide an informed consent to the CCO and that the CCO is being signed knowingly and voluntarily. (If there is any question whether the aforementioned conditions are met, then the physician should wait until such time as the patient or patient's authorized decision maker is able to do so).
 - Complete all information on the three inserts and the physician should sign all three inserts.
 - Place bracelet on patient's wrist.
- Give original document (white copy) to the patient or the patient's authorized decision maker.
- Place the yellow copy in patient's medical records.
- The physician should fax the blue copy to: 202-671-0846 or mail it to:
Government of the District of Columbia, Department of Health, Emergency Health and Medical Services Administration (EHMSA), Attn: DNR Program, 64