



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Folláine, Comhionannas, Aeráide & Sláinte Dhomhanda
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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7th August 2024

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

E: violet-anne.wynne@oireachtas.ie / Cc: PQuestions@hse.ie

Re: PQ 33024/24

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the training that is provided to staff in respect of do-not-resuscitate orders; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Wynne,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Current HSE Policy on Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNAR)

Currently the HSE policy on Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNAR) is contained in Part 3 and Appendix 10 of National Consent Policy 2022 v1.2 (available at https://assets.hse.ie/media/documents/ncr/20240524_HSE_Consent_Policy_2022_v1.2.pdf).

Training on the HSE National Consent Policy is available through an on-line e-learning programme which can be accessed through HSeLand. This training is promoted through line managers, through

awareness raising campaigns and bespoke webinars on the policy. This training went live in March 2022. A total of 17,778 people have undertaken the training to date. Education regarding appropriate decision making for DNACPR is also provided at a postgraduate level for doctors by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and by other training bodies.

Revision of the HSE DNAR Policy and supporting research

In 2023 the National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy contracted a team in University of Limerick to undertake research on Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) decisions to identify best DNACPR policy, practice and training to inform the drafting of a new standalone DNACPR policy for the HSE.

This research paper was completed in April 2024. A draft HSE DNACPR policy was developed which built on the existing HSE guidance and the findings of the HSE research paper.

A HSE DNACPR Policy Steering group has been convened and is currently reviewing a first draft of a standalone HSE policy on DNACPR decisions. This group includes representatives from the National Ambulance Service, Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council, ICGP, National Advocacy Service for persons with disabilities, Nursing Homes Ireland, Irish Hospice Foundation, Ethics, Patients representative, Family Carers Ireland and HSE Clinical Programmes in Palliative Care, Emergency Medicine, Anaesthetics, Mental Health, Paediatrics, Geriatrics and Integrated Care.

The DNACPR Policy Steering Group will inform the development of:

- A standalone DNACPR Policy
- A DNACPR policy education and training plan.
- A DNACPR policy implementation plan.
- A DNACPR information and communications plan
- Supporting documentation as required.

This work is currently in progress. A standalone e-learning programme on the new DNACPR policy will be developed when that policy is completed

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Caoimhe Gleeson
General Manager
HSE National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy
Office of the National Director
Wellbeing, Equality, Climate and Global Health