

21 December 2016

To Somerset Care Homes

Re: Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNAR) Orders

The LMC regularly receives reports from GP practices concerning Care Home staff contacting them worried about residents' DNAR forms not being in the right format. In these cases Care Home staff seem to think that other healthcare professionals – especially SWASFT paramedic crews - “will not accept” a hospital DNAR order or Treatment Escalation Plan should an emergency occur. The fear is that this “rejection” might lead to inappropriate intervention in the event of, say, a cardiac arrest.

These anxieties are unfounded and the LMC (representing all Somerset GPs) has received several categorical reassurances from SWASFT senior managers that ANY valid DNAR order – including a photocopy of one – will be respected if it is brought to their paramedics' attention. There is therefore no need for GPs to be asked to issue a new DNAR in the “correct” format if a patient is discharged from hospital with a hospital DNAR although it would, of course, be helpful for practices to be told if this is a new development.

Colleagues will be aware “My Life” Care Plan, designed to include a comprehensive range of information such as details of next of kin, advanced directives, other personal preferences, treatment escalation plans and status for resuscitation is being rolled out by Somerset CCG. This scheme is intended to improve patient safety and care by making sure that vital information (like a DNAR) is truly person-centred and is not dependent on where the patient happens to be at any given time.

Yours faithfully



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