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Board of Registration in Nursing  
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June 9, 2016

To: Massachusetts Nursing and Professional Healthcare Organizations

From: Laurie Talarico, MS, RN, CNP Nursing Practice Coordinator

Re: Revised Advisory Ruling 0801: Withholding Initiation of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation in Long-term Care Facilities

At the June 8, 2016 Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) meeting, the Board revised Advisory Ruling (AR) 0801: *Withholding Initiation of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation in Long-term Care Facilities* to ensure compliance with current statutes, regulations and scope of practice standards.

The AR guides the decision-making of the nurse regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) when a patient or resident (patient) in a long-term care facility<sup>1</sup> with 24-hour skilled nursing staff on duty has experienced a cardiac arrest.

AR 0801: *Withholding Initiation of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation in Long-term Care Facilities* revisions:

- Rename AR 0801 to "*Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation in Long-term Care Facilities*" and provide language changes to improve readability
- Find that the information presented in AR 0801, reviewed in 2013 by the NPAP, remains consistent with the AHA CPR guidelines (2015)
- Retain the Board's 2008 position that, in the context of practice in a Massachusetts long-term care facility with 24-hour skilled nursing staff on duty,

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<sup>1</sup> As defined at regulation 105 CMR 150.001 "Long-Term Care Facility shall mean any institution whether conducted for charity or profit which is advertised, announced or maintained for the express or implied purpose of providing three or more individuals admitted thereto with long-term resident, nursing, convalescent or rehabilitative care; supervision and care incident to old age for ambulatory persons; or retirement home care for elderly persons. Long-term care facility shall include convalescent or nursing homes, rest homes, infirmaries maintained in towns and charitable homes for the aged."

current practice standards require the initiation of CPR when a patient or resident has experienced a cardiac arrest **except** when the patient or resident has:

- A current, valid Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order; **OR**
  - Signs of irreversible death (e.g. decapitation, decomposition, rigor mortis, dependent lividity); **OR**
  - Situations where attempts to perform CPR would place the rescuer at risk of serious injury or mortal peril
- Clarify that nurses in a management role are required to apply CMS revised guidance for long term care facilities that participate in Medicare/Medicaid, including providing staff at all times who have maintained current CPR certification for healthcare providers through CPR training that includes hands-on practice and in-person skills assessment
  - Update citations

Please take a moment to review the entire [Advisory Ruling 0801](#).