



# Clinical BULLETIN

**Read asap: Essential clinical  
update information.**

**You have a professional obligation to keep  
up to date with clinical updates at all times.**

**Priority Green**

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## **New End of life Care Policy and Procedures**

**Priority:** GREEN (Essential clinical update information)

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Dear Colleagues

Following developments in Care of the dying guidance please be aware that EMAS now have agreed a new **End of Life Care Policy** and **two** associated SOPs to aid our care of the dying. These are:

- **Clinical Management in End of Life Care SOP**
- **Resuscitation Decisions in End of Life Care SOP**

The purpose of these documents is to provide the practitioner with the support and guidance to ensure that when there is one chance to get it right – that we achieve this. Please ensure that you familiarize yourselves with these.

Attached to this document are 2 key flow charts taken from these SOPs as they highlight the key factors in End of Life Care. Please also refer to the current guidance in JRCALC / AACE (2013) Clinical Practice Guidelines.

There are five key principles I would like to highlight to you:

- A photocopy of a DNACPR is adequate as long as you have no reason to believe it is no longer valid.
- There are numerous forms relating to DNACPR – as long as they are completed and you have no reason to doubt their validity they should be honored.
- A verbal confirmation of a DNACPR from a registered clinician involved in the care of an individual is valid; this includes CAT who may have access to electronic notes.
- A clinician can provide EOL drugs as per the patient specific protocol at scene as long as the route of administration is within their scope of practice. CAT advice should always be sought when EOL drugs are to be used.
- Please ensure that when a DNAR or care plan is present, that this is documented clearly.

It is appreciated that these situations are complex and often emotive, therefore if you are unsure please seek help from CAT or your clinical team.

**Pocket guides will be issued shortly to support you in practice.**

Best wishes, Ian