

ELECTRONIC RESUSCITATION PLANS AND ADVANCED CARE PLANNING POLICY®

DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- SCHN uses an electronic Resuscitation Plan for recording resuscitation decisions as an outcome from goals of care and/or advance care planning discussions. Refer to NSW Health Policy Directive [Using Resuscitation Plans in End of Life Decisions](#) PD2014_030.
- The electronic Resuscitation Plan replaces previous processes as of 31 May 2022 (SCH – paper Resuscitation Plan; CHW – Allow Natural Death).
- It is generated for inpatient encounters and is valid for the duration of the admission unless amended /rescinded.
- The Paediatric Resuscitation Plan is for children >29 days and <18 years age.
 - For infants < 29days age, the Resuscitation Plan is not currently available.
 - For patients >18 years, the Adult Resuscitation Plan is to be used.
 - A detailed note should be documented in PowerChart progress notes and ensure staff are aware that an advanced care planning discussion has taken place and that goals of care and appropriate management has been decided on.
- A Resuscitation Plan can also be generated for an Outpatient encounter and would then need to be re-generated at next admission.

This document reflects what is currently regarded as safe practice. However, as in any clinical situation, there may be factors which cannot be covered by a single set of guidelines. This document does not replace the need for the application of clinical judgement to each individual presentation.

Approved by:	SCHN Policy, Procedure and Guideline Committee	
Date Effective:	1 st March 2023	Review Period: 3 years
Team Leader:	Clinical Nurse Consultant	Area/Dept: Paediatric Palliative Care

CHANGE SUMMARY

- Replaces previous SCHN policies - *Resuscitation Plans - End of Life Decisions* (2015-9006) and *Allow a Natural Death by limiting the use of Life-Sustaining Treatment - CHW* (2006-8331).

READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Clinical and clerical staff who access the electronic medical records.

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1 Definitions:

Advance Care Directive (ACD)

An Advanced Care Directive is a way to document healthcare treatments you would like to have or refuse, should you be in a position where you are seriously ill or injured and unable to make or communicate decisions about your care and treatment¹. An Advanced Care Directive can only be made by an adult with decision-making capacity.

Advance Care Plan (ACP):

An Advance Care Plan is the outcome of an Advance Care Planning process. Like an Advance Care Directive (for 18 years and above), an Advance Care Plan also records preferences about health and personal care and treatment goals. However, it may be completed by discussion or in writing and it may be made by, with, or for the individual. It should inform a Resuscitation Plan².

Allow a Natural Death

This document has been discontinued.

Goals of Care

The general goal of medical treatment is the health and wellbeing of the patient. The specific goal of medical treatment may, in the circumstances, be cure of an illness, relief of the symptoms of an illness, stabilisation of the patient in a satisfactory condition, improvement in the way the patient dies, etc¹.

Neonate

A baby aged < 29 days of age.

Paediatric

Person under 18 years of age

Resuscitation Plan:

A Resuscitation Plan is a medically authorised order to use or withhold resuscitation measures and document other time critical clinical decisions related to end of life. These were formerly called No CPR Orders or "Allow a Natural Death Plan". A Resuscitation Plan is made:

- With reference to pre-planning by patients (such as Advance Care Plans or directives)
- In consultation with patients/families
- Taking account of the current clinical status, as well as the wishes and goals of the patient¹.

1. *Making an Advance Care Directive- form and information booklet (2022) NSW Health*. Available at: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/patients/acp/Pages/acd-form-info-book.aspx> (Accessed: November 28, 2022).
2. NSW Health 2019 Using Resuscitation Plans in End of Life Decisions PD2014_030 pp.12,13

2 Table of Abbreviations

Full Form	Abbreviation
Advanced Care Directive	ACD
Advanced Care Plan	ACP
Allow a Natural Death	AND
Children's Hospital Westmead	CHW
Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation	CPR
Electronic Medical Records	eMR
Sydney Children's Hospital	SCH
Sydney Children's Hospitals Network	SCHN

3 Management of Electronic Resuscitation Plans

- A new eMR Resuscitation Plan Tile denotes the existence of an ACTIVE or PREVIOUS resuscitation plan.
- For information regarding documenting, viewing, modifying and cancelling an Electronic Resuscitation Plans and how to record when a patient has Advanced Care documentation in eMR refer to Flow Chart 1.
- Where surgery is planned for someone with a Resuscitation Plan, this should be reviewed in consultation with the patient (if appropriate), Person Responsible, anaesthetist and surgeon as to whether it is appropriate to suspend it during the intra- or postoperative period. This decision should be clearly documented in the medical record². Generally it would be rescinded for the duration for the procedure and re-instated by primary/admitting clinician when appropriate.
- Only scan into 'Document Imaging' the paper Resuscitation Plan forms that have been created outside the SCHN and dated outside of the admission.
- At time of discharge, a hard copy can be printed (whilst the encounter is still open) to give to the parents/carers so they can share it with their key health teams.
- A hard copy can be printed (whilst the encounter is still open) to accompany the patient on an inter-facility transfer.
- Resuscitation Plans are valid in community settings except for community patients under the medical care of a doctor who is not a NSW Health staff

member. General Practitioners with admitting rights are considered NSW Health staff.

- Advance Care Documents are viewable in the Alerts section or in the Advanced Care Documents Tab on patient summary page of the eMR (This function will be available in 2023).

Documenting, Viewing, Modifying & Cancelling Electronic Resuscitation Plans and Advance Care Documents Flow Chart

