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DNR Order: What are my boundaries? Nurses Role and Attitude

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Critical Care nurses are faced with multiple ethical and moral issues on daily basis. They deal with delicate, weak and terminally ill patients. They frequently need to take decisions which may sound harsh, tough and even nonhuman, such as explaining the Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) order to the patient, family member or the guardian. In addition, these decisions might have an undesirable impact on their care in End of Life (EOL) situations

Despite the huge role they play, they are not usually involved in the decision making of a DNR order. Their intimate knowledge of the patients and the longer time they spend with their patients (compared to other health care providers) is usually neglected, while it should be taken in consideration while thinking of initiation the DNR Order. In addition, many people think that the DNR orders mean less care to their beloved ones, which puts another burden on the nurses to prove otherwise.

Although most of the health care institutions, globally, have a clear DNR policy, the role of the nurses is not well discussed, their attitude is not well studied and their role is not well defined. Many physicians have stated that the nurses could be of a great help when involved in such order. Also, studies should a positive attitude of nurses toward the initiation of DNR order for certain patients.

Nurses are the first line providers and their role in DNR initiation need to be formed, regulated and well established.

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Biography

Samah Abdullah Al Aرامي is a senior Nurse who has been working for the last 15 years in a critical care area in both UAE and Oman. She holds a Diploma in General Nursing Sciences from UAE, 2004. She has finished my Post Graduation in Adult Critical Care Nursing Program from The Higher Institute of Health Specializations 2016 and currently a BSN Studentin at University of Nizwa. In addition, she is a training center faculty (TCF) for basic life support (BLS) and have a strong interest in the Ethics of the medical field, particularly the nursing role and Ethical dilemma they encounter.

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