

6 May 2020

Dear Dr O'Brien

Following the circulation of my pre-monitoring email on 1st May, I am now sending you our first formal enquiry about the use of DNACPR. NHS statutory organisations, GP practices and Primary Care Networks were sent a letter under the signatures of the Chief Nursing Officer and National Medical Director, on 7th April, which focused on the use of DNACPR; making specific reference to the use of DNACPR during the COVID-19 pandemic. Healthwatch South Tyneside would be grateful if you could provide answers to the following questions:

1. Is your organisation acting in accordance with guidance provided in the letter; especially the paragraph in bold type at the end of page 1.
2. Does your organisation have a policy and procedure in place for the application of DNACPRs? If they are in the public domain could we be sent a copy and, if not, could the contents be shared with our manager Sheila Scott.
3. Do all the practitioners who could administer a DNACPR receive training in the policy and procedure which apply in your organisation.
4. Is there a lead person in your organisation who oversees the governance of DNACPR?
5. In the letter referred to above, there is reference to a statement issued by the British Medical Association, Care Provider Alliance, Care Quality Commission and the Royal College of General Practitioners, on the role of general practitioners in this regard. Are you aware of the statement and that it is thought to provide an excellent basis for the approach required.
6. Are DNACPRs able to be transmitted electronically to NEAS paramedics and would they use them to help their decision-making process when they decide which call(s) to prioritise or on arrival at the scene.
7. Are DNACPRs time limited or reviewed or do they remain in place permanently unless a suitably qualified person decides to remove the DNACPR.

I realise the questions may be difficult for you to answer directly and if you would like to advise me to redirect them to a named person or to talk to me about how best to answer them, with respect to care homes, please give me a call on 0788597 0602.

Stay safe.

Yours Sincerely

pp **S. Scott**

Peter Bower
Chair