

MR004 Resuscitation Plan FAQs

Why is there a new form?

Patients are sometimes too sick to be able to decide what treatment they want in an emergency. It is important to have clear conversations with our patients and their families, and good documentation, in order to know what treatment we should provide in these situations. The new *Resuscitation Plan* will replace the existing “Not for CPR” form. Along with the accompanying policy, it hopes to provide more options for patients and clinicians to consider when setting goals of care, as well as providing some guidance for staff on what to discuss during these conversations. It is a clearer tool for communicating to nursing and medical staff what is important for each patient, to ensure that patients do not receive treatments that they would not want.

The new *Resuscitation Plan* is the result of over 2 years work that started with a small trial in the Emergency Department in late 2016. The form and policy were further refined by the End-Of-Life-Care Committee, after a second trial in 6 wards across 4 campuses with extensive institution-wide consultation with staff and patient representatives.

When is the new form starting?

16 September 2019

Where will the new form be used?

Brighton, Hopetoun, Prahran and Malvern.

How is the new *Resuscitation Plan* different?

The *Resuscitation Plan* form provides an increased range of options for patients and clinicians to consider when reviewing goals of care. The *Resuscitation Plan* is a tool that supports clear communication of patient wishes to nursing and medical staff in the event of a change in a patient’s clinical state. It allows staff to know what is important for each patient, and ensures patients do not receive treatments which they would not want.

Is this a *Goals of Care* form?

Goals of care is the broader discussion with a patient about their values, wishes, hopes and/or fears to consider what outcomes would be acceptable to that individual. The *Resuscitation Plan* form includes a set of specific treatment options that come from a goals of care discussion, but are limited to treatments which should be offered in an emergency. A goals of care discussion would encompass other things that are not included in the *Resuscitation Plan*, such as rehabilitation preferences, medication administration timings and more values-based choices.

Where do I access the policy?

The new policy is available on Prompt, “Resuscitation Plan – Policy and Protocol”

Where does the form get filed?

The new form should be stored in the patient’s file, behind the green medico-legal divider, as per current practice.

What if a patient changes wards?

If a patient is transferred between wards within the same campus the MR004 should accompany the patient as per current practice. Any patients moving to a new campus will require a new MR004 to be completed as per current practice. If a patient is transferred from an acute ward to a sub-acute ward within the same campus, this is considered a new episode of care and requires a new form to be completed.

How do I document phone orders?

A phone order may be provided by the patient’s admitting Medical Officer if it is clear that certain treatments are therapeutically futile or non-beneficial and should not be offered. Nursing staff completing the form on advice over the phone from the patient’s admitting Medical Officer should document the discussion in the “Discussion Pathway” section of the trial form, and also in the patient’s notes. The admitting Medical Officer should verify and sign the *Resuscitation Plan* within 24 hours. Ensure you follow the usual phone order protocol for your site.

How do I order new MR004 forms?

From 12 September the new MR004 forms will be available to order. Follow the usual process and ensure you request the *Resuscitation Plan* MR004 form.

How can I prepare my team?

Each area will be provided with resources to assist staff with the changes. All medical staff and Visiting Medical Officers will be provided resources prior to the change date. Malvern and Brighton will have a limited number of Resuscitation Plan Information forums – see Cabinet for further details.

Who can I contact for more information?

Medical Staff contact Ian Turner iturner@cabrini.com.au

Nursing staff contact Emma Patterson ext 3534 or epatterson@cabrini.com.au

