

## DNR orders linked to increased mortality in older adults

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(HealthDay)—For hospitalized older patients, the presence of a do-not-

resuscitate (DNR) order is associated with poor short-term clinical outcomes, including mortality, according to a study recently published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

Karishma Patel, M.D., from Northwell Health in Manhasset, N.Y., and colleagues conducted a [retrospective cohort study](#) with propensity score matching to explore the effect of the presence and timing of DNR orders on short-term outcomes among hospitalized medical patients aged 65 years and older. Data were included for 1,347 patients in the DNR group and 9,182 in the no-DNR group.

After [propensity score](#) matching, the researchers found that the DNR group had significantly longer stays and were more likely to be discharged to hospice and to die. A significant difference in median length of stay was seen for those who had a DNR written within 24 hours of admission versus those who had a DNR written more than 24 hours after admission (6 days versus 10 days). Patients with early DNR were less likely to spend time in intensive care, receive a palliative care consultation, be restrained, have an order for nothing by mouth, have a bladder catheter, or die in the hospital; they were more likely to be discharged home.

"Further studies are necessary to better understand the presence and timing of DNR orders in hospitalized older adults," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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