



## **Understanding blanket DNR's (Do Not Resuscitate) or DNACPR (Do Not Attempt Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation)**

During the pandemic there were blanket DNR orders placed on the elderly and vulnerable without their knowledge or consent or that of their family. We are concerned as to how those orders impacted the treatment or non-treatment of people when it came to general ill health or perceived 'end of life' situations.

The following information has been taken from Honorary QC Alex Ruck Keene's website. For the full article please visit: <https://www.mentalcapacitylawandpolicy.org.uk/human-rights-in-care-settings-joint-committee-on-human-rights-reports/>

"The Government is under a number of domestic and international obligations relating to the provision of medical and personal care services. Together, these require that those in care settings should have access to the highest attainable standard of health, as protected by Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

They should also have their personal needs met, in light of the protection against torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)) and the principle of human dignity. However, too often these standards are not met, and individuals suffer.

The regulator for health and care services, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), must fulfil its duty to monitor providers' compliance with the required standards, and hold providers accountable in a timely way. Where services are commissioned, the commissioning body must ensure that there is sufficient provision for monitoring and accountability by the contracting public authority, to allow it to identify whether human rights obligations are being discharged.



Specific training on human rights and its effects on the provision of services must be given by all registered providers to staff with the CQC working with all stakeholders to ensure this is taking place.

Some care users have Do Not Attempt Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation Notices in place. These make recommendations that CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) is not given in instances where a person stops breathing or their heart stops beating.

During the pandemic we were concerned to hear that these were being applied to care users without their knowledge, in a blanket fashion, contrary to the right to life under Article 2 ECHR. We were disappointed to hear that concerns remain about the use of such notices, with what is often poor consultation with care users and their families, insufficient record keeping, and inappropriate use.”