

Do not resuscitate orders for pediatric patients: The role of a clinical ethics committee in a developing country Ordenes de no resucitar a pacientes pediátricos: La función de un comité de ética clínica en un país en desarrollo

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No published information is currently available about formal 'do not resuscitate' (DNR) orders for pediatric patients in developing countries, even though there has been extensive discussion of how to determine who should be involved in such decisions. This article reports the experience of the Clinical Ethics Committee of the Calvo MacKenna Hospital in Santiago, which is a pediatric public hospital in Chile. The Committee consisted of four permanent members, all physicians, and other members including clergymen, nurses, the head of the hospital's patient unit, and the attending physician. Physicians submitted cases to the Committee on a voluntary basis, and the Committee's recommendations were not binding. During the 1990-1993 study period, the Committee recommended issuing DNR orders for 16 of the 34 patients it evaluated. The hospital records of these 16 patients were retrospectively reviewed for information about the patient's age and diagnosis, the Committee's specific recommendat