

Giving up an effort to resuscitate a patient with failure of basic life functions is very serious decision inevitably leading to the death of that patient. The only counter-indications of resuscitation are certain signs of death and lethal injuries. The advice of Czech and foreign associations for resuscitation is to include terminal stages of incurable diseases to counter-indications of resuscitation as well, but this advice is against law of Czech Republic and therefore it cannot be accepted.

Ethical codes as well as Czech laws need a "do not resuscitate" order written by patient to cancel resuscitation effort and the free will of patient about medical treatment is on the first place when making a "do not resuscitate" decision. Therefore it is very important to fully inform patient about his disease and therapeutic possibilities including DNR order. There is a strong need of education of doctors in the medical ethics and communication with terminally ill patient.

Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine has brought the advance directives concept to the Czech law. Advance directives are very well known in foreign countries (USA) and DNR order can be part of them. It is important to set rules for advance directives to Czech law as well as to resolve organizational aspects of advance directives in Czech Republic.