

**N-04 Death and Pronouncement of Death of an Elder**

A registered nurse can determine and pronounce death if the elder's physician has documented in the elder's chart that the elder's death is anticipated, and the physician has authorized in writing an RN or group of RNs to make the pronouncement. The group of RNs often includes all RNs who work in the Home. The physician note is valid for 120 days.

The AKPH must have a policy for RNs to pronounce, which it does.

If there is *no pronouncement note* from the physician, and the elder is Comfort One/DNR/No CPR/No Code, the RN assesses the deceased resident and calls the physician for a pronouncement. The physician can pronounce via phone or visit the elder. If the resident is Full Code/CPR, regardless of the appearance, lack of vital signs, color, temperature, or stiffness, someone must "perform CPR" while the nurse calls the physician for a pronouncement.

If the elder does not have an order for No Code, then the elder is considered Full Code.

N-04 Approved: 1/27/2012