

What is code status?

- Code status is the decision you make with your doctor about what to do if your heart stops or you stop breathing
- There are two kinds of code status, **no code** and **full code**
- For **no code**, your doctor must provide a copy of your wishes in writing using a POLST form (*Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment*)
- If you have questions about code status, discuss with your kidney doctor

How is code status different from a living will?

- A living will concerns decisions about life support if you are at the end of life
- Code status concerns only decisions in an emergency situation
- We recommend you complete a living will along with your code status
- Your nurse educator or social worker can provide forms and more information

“Full code” means we will do everything to restart your heart and breathing, including:

- Starting CPR (pushing hard on your chest to try to make your heart beat)
- Using a defibrillator to shock to your heart to try to make it beat
- Calling 911 to take you to the hospital

After a full code

- A full code may save your life and you may make a full recovery
- Patients with other medical problems may only live a short time after a full code
- Sometimes, there is brain damage from lack of oxygen or other problems

“No code” means we will not try to restart your heart or your breathing

- We will not call 911
- We will return your blood from dialysis and give you saline
- We will do everything we can to keep you comfortable