Appendix 1: Decision-Making Framework

Is cardiac or respiratory arrest a clear possibility in the circumstances of the patient?

NO → If there is no reason to believe that the patient is likely to have a cardiac or respiratory arrest it is not necessary to initiate discussion with the patient (or those close to patients who lack capacity) about CPR. If, however, the patient wishes to discuss CPR this should be respected.

↓

YES

Is there a realistic chance that CPR could be successful?

NO → When a decision not to attempt CPR is made on these clear clinical grounds, it is not appropriate to ask the patient's wishes about CPR, but careful consideration should be given as to whether to inform the patient of the DNACPR decision. **Ideally they should be informed.**
Where the patient lacks capacity and has a personal welfare attorney, this person (and also the family/relatives) must be informed of the decision not to attempt CPR and the reasons for it as part of the ongoing discussion about the patient's care. If a second opinion is requested, this request should be respected, whenever possible.

↓

YES

Does the patient lack capacity and have an advance decision refusing CPR or a personal welfare attorney with relevant authority?

YES → If a patient has made an advance decision refusing CPR, and the criteria for applicability and validity are met, this must be respected. If a personal welfare attorney has been appointed they must be consulted.

↓

NO

Are the potential risks and burdens of CPR considered to be greater than the likely benefit of CPR?

YES → When there is only a small chance of success, and there are questions about whether the burdens outweigh the benefits of attempting CPR, **the involvement of the patient (or, if the patient lacks mental capacity, those close to the patient) in making the decision is crucial**. When adult patients have mental capacity their own view should be taken into account when making the decision.

↓

NO

CPR should be attempted unless the patient has capacity and states that they would not want CPR attempted.