

Maryland MOLST

Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment

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Ten Things Health Care Professionals Should Know About Maryland MOLST

1. Maryland MOLST is a portable and enduring medical order form signed by a physician or nurse practitioner. It contains orders about cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other life-sustaining treatments.
2. When the regulations go into effect, MOLST must be completed for all individuals admitted to nursing homes, assisted living programs, hospices, home health agencies, and dialysis centers. It must be completed for all hospital inpatients being discharged to another hospital or any of the program types listed above.
3. Any individual who has the capacity to make decisions may ask their physician or nurse practitioner to complete the MOLST order form to reflect his or her wishes.
4. MOLST helps to ensure that a patient's wishes to receive or decline care are honored throughout the health care system. In every section of the order form, there are options to accept all medically indicated treatments or to limit interventions.
5. A patient has the right to decline to discuss or make a decision about these topics. If a patient does not limit care, CPR will be attempted and other treatments will be given.
6. A copy of a completed MOLST form must be given to the patient or authorized decision maker within 48 hours of completion or sooner if the patient is discharged or transferred.
7. MOLST replaces the Maryland EMS DNR order form and the Life-Sustaining Treatment Options form. The original, a copy, and a faxed MOLST form are all valid orders.
8. If a health care facility or program receives a MOLST order form signed by a practitioner who is not on their medical staff, the MOLST orders are still valid. MOLST orders are valid for EMS providers and all health care professionals, facilities, and programs in Maryland.
9. MOLST does not change current law or regulations about who has the legal authority to make decisions for an individual who lacks the capacity to make health care decisions.
10. Orders on the MOLST form do not expire. Health care professionals must review the MOLST orders to make sure they accurately reflect the patient's current wishes. MOLST orders may be revised by voiding the current form and completing a new MOLST form.