LIFE QUALITY INSTITUTE
advancing palliative care through education™

Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment

A new process for documenting treatment preferences that is
Standardized • Efficient • Portable • Flexible • Updatable • Effective

The Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment is a 1-page, 2-sided document that **consolidates and summarizes patient preferences** for key life-sustaining treatments including: CPR, general scope of treatment, antibiotics, artificial nutrition & hydration.

Persons may **refuse treatment, request full treatment, or specify limitations.**

The standardized form can be **easily and quickly understood** by patients, healthcare providers, and emergency personnel.

It is **primarily intended to be used by the chronically or seriously ill** person in frequent contact with healthcare providers, or already residing in a nursing facility.

The Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment is completed by the patient or authorized agent in conversation with a healthcare provider, then signed by the patient/agent and a physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician's assistant.

The physician/APN/PA signature **translates patient preferences into physician's orders.**

The Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment "travels" with the patient and is **honored in any setting:** hospital, clinic, day surgery, long-term care facility, ALR, hospice, or at home. The original is brightly colored for easy identification, but photocopies, faxes, and electronic scans are also valid.

The portability of the form **allows seamless documentation of treatment preferences and closes gaps** as patients transfer from setting to setting or experience delays in access to providers.

The latitude of authorized signers (physician/APN/PA) allows prompt documentation of preferences in **rural regions or areas where physicians and healthcare services are scant.**

Treatment preferences may be previously or more extensively documented in the patient's advance directives. Completion of Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment does not replace or invalidate prior directives. **In cases of directly conflicting instructions, the most recently executed document rules.**

A section on the back **prompts patients and providers to regularly review**, confirm, or update choices based on changing conditions.

The Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment is a variant of the Physician's Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment, pioneered in Oregon in the early 1990s. Similar programs are now officially sanctioned in Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Pennsylvania, West Virginia,

Tennessee, North Carolina, New York, and parts of Wisconsin. Programs are being developed in 21 other states.

Extensive research indicates that the Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment program **greatly improves utilization of advance care planning and adherence to expressed wishes.** (See the *POLST* Web site, www.polst.org for references and research findings.)

The Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment program in Colorado is spearheaded by the **Colorado Advance Directives Consortium,** a multidisciplinary volunteer group including representatives from health care (hospital, hospice, long-term care), professional associations and statewide organizations (Colorado Medical Society, Colorado Bar Association, Colorado Center for Hospice & Palliative Care, Colorado Health Care Association, Colorado Hospital Association) government and social services (CDPHE, EMS, ombudsman, DRCOG, HCPF, legislators), health care ethics, elder law attorneys, and others.

The Consortium has carefully examined the feasibility of the Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment for Colorado, customized the form for adherence to Colorado law and medical practice, and sought input from stakeholders since the summer of 2006. In the 2010 legislative session, the Colorado Delegate Assembly passed a bill establishing the program and validating its key provisions. The bill was signed by Governor Ritter in late June, 2010, and goes into effect August, 11, 2010.

Education on the MOST is being coordinated statewide by **Life Quality Institute**. To schedule a presentation or learn about upcoming trainings, please contact Jennifer Ballentine at jballentine@lifequalityinstitute.org.

For additional information, please contact:
Dr. David Koets, dkoetsmd@q.com
Jennifer Ballentine, Jballentine@lifequalityinstitute.org

www.coloradoadvancedirectives.com
www.lifequalityinstitute.org