



August 2007

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to present you with the new Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatments (MOLST) DVD and introduce you to an array of Web-based tools located in the MOLST Training Center at www.compassionandsupport.org.

MOLST is a program designed to improve the quality of care seriously ill patients with advanced chronic illness receive at the end of life. The MOLST DVD aims to educate professionals, patients and families about the importance of antecedent goal-based, patient-centered conversation among patients, families and providers. MOLST helps patients share their goals for care, know their choices, make sound medical decisions about life-sustaining treatment and make their wishes known to their health care providers and their families. Medical orders are recorded on a bright pink form that travels with the patient and is honored at all sites of care.

Most people avoid talking about end-of-life issues, and this can cause tension and apprehension between patients, families and providers. By addressing the subject with patients early, anxiety regarding vital decision-making can be avoided. A clearly understood treatment plan provides the best possible scenario for effective care in accordance with the patient's wishes and allows the patient greater ownership over the final stages of life.

The MOLST DVD includes an informational video "Writing Your Final Chapter: Know Your Choices...Share Your Wishes" for all. An educational video for professionals, "Honoring Patient Preferences: The Role of Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) in New York State" provides the core curriculum on MOLST. Additional information is available on the Web site. Please make time to complete this important training by viewing both presentations on your computer or TV. Begin by printing the MOLST PowerPoint presentation found at the MOLST Training Center at www.compassionandsupport.org. Once you have viewed the material, take the posttest, complete the evaluation and receive your CME credit by clicking the "CME Posttest and Evaluation" button at the Web site. Completion of the training and testing is estimated to take about two hours.

The instructional DVD is being distributed free to physicians, hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, EMS professional organizations and other health care agencies throughout the state. Join us in reaching out to seriously ill patients and the general public by sharing this DVD with your patients.

This activity has been implemented in accordance with the Essentials Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint sponsorship of the Medical Society of the State of New York and Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. The Medical Society of the State of New York designates this educational activity for a maximum of 2.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)

For nurses, 2.0 Continuing Nursing Education contact hours are provided. The University of Rochester Medical Center/Strong Memorial Hospital and Strong Health Affiliates is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

We are encouraged about MOLST's prospects for improving care for individuals during the final stages of life. We ask for your participation in assisting your patients with these important decisions.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Bomba MD

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The MOLST DVD is a statewide initiative presented by the Medical Society of the State of New York and Excellus BlueCross BlueShield in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health and the Monroe and Onondaga Counties MOLST Community Implementation Team.