

## Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) Update

Please forward this email to colleagues in your respective organizations and associations.

### New law goes into effect today!

#### **New York State's Palliative Care Information Act requires physicians and nurse practitioners to offer terminally-ill patients information and counseling concerning palliative care and end-of-life options.**

As defined by the law, palliative care is "health care treatment, including interdisciplinary end-of-life care, and consultation with patients and family members, to prevent or relieve pain and suffering and to enhance the patient's quality of life, including hospice care." The aim of palliative care is to relieve suffering and improve quality of life for patients with advanced illness and is offered simultaneously with all other appropriate medical treatment to manage the underlying illness from the time of diagnosis. It also helps patients' families with their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

The new law encourages discussions between patient and physician about the goals for care and also the need for a Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) form, as well as ensures optimal relief of pain and other symptoms and a timely referral to hospice.

#### **The New York State Department of Health sent out Dear Administrator Letters and Dear Physician and Nurse Practitioners letters along with a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the new law.**

A summary of the new law, the FAQs and resources are posted at:

[http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/patients/patient\\_rights/palliative\\_care/](http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/patients/patient_rights/palliative_care/).

Further information on Palliative Care and the Palliative Care Information Act:

[http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/for\\_professionals/palliative\\_care](http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/for_professionals/palliative_care).

*Pat*

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