

Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) Update

National Healthcare Decisions Day Presents Opportunity to Share Information on Traditional Advance Directives and MOLST

We have an exciting opportunity to promote advance care planning, the importance of completing health care proxies and the value of the MOLST Program for seriously ill patients in our communities throughout New York State. **April 16, 2008 has been designated National Healthcare Decisions Day!** The National Healthcare Decisions Day Initiative is a collaborative effort of national, state and community organizations committed to ensuring that all adults with decision-making capacity in the United States have the information and opportunity to communicate and document their healthcare decisions.

The Community-wide End-of-life/Palliative Care Initiative is proudly participating in this event along with a broad array of other organizations across the country. We hope that you will participate with us to raise awareness about these important issues across the country. If you have not already done so, please sign up your organization at: www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org/maintopics/sign_up and confirm your participation.

We have created a National Healthcare Decisions Day web page on the CompassionandSupport web site at http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/for_patients_families/advance_care_planning/national_health_care_decisions_day. The Community-wide End-of-life/Palliative Care Initiative will post events from across New York State. Contact Us through the web site and share your activities. Send us a PDF of your event or link to your web site.

You need not change what you are already doing to educate the public about advance healthcare decision-making, advance directives and MOLST--instead, you are simply encouraged to make a "bigger splash" in your community regarding the topic on and around April 16, 2008.

The Community Conversations on Compassionate Care (CCCC) and MOLST videos are available to you at no cost for use in your community activities; contact us via <http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/contact> to receive your free DVD.

To view the CCCC program, click on the link below and then click View CCCC video
http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/for_patients_families/advance_care_planning/video

To view the MOLST program, click on the link below, and then click on Number 2-Watch Video 1.
http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/for_professionals/molst_training_center/videos

This is a wonderful opportunity to work collaboratively with other healthcare organizations and a great chance to gain increased recognition for your organization.

For additional information or questions about this initiative, please contact me directly or through the CompassionandSupport web site.

Thank you for all you are already doing and for making this event a success. For more information, visit www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org.

Pat

Patricia A. Bomba M.D.
Vice President and Medical Director, Geriatrics
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield
165 Court Street
Rochester, NY 14647
ofc: 585-238-4514
fax: 585-453-6365