



Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) 2009 Update

As I reflect on MOLST accomplishments in 2009, I extend my sincere thanks to innumerable staff at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield and colleagues who have volunteered time, talent and treasure to statewide implementation of the MOLST Program. Together, we are making a difference!

Implementation and Training

The MOLST Training curriculum was updated after the MOLST became law in July 2008. In 2009, all-day MOLST training conferences were held in Malone, Herkimer, New York City, Painted Post and the Capital District with over 400 MOLST trainers in attendance. Those who attended are now equipped to train others on the MOLST program, form, facility and community implementation. In addition to MOLST Training Days, I shared the work we have done collaboratively at more than 50 presentations on MOLST nationally and across NYS. Additionally, countless training sessions are conducted by MOLST Trainers statewide. My staff provides support for these events.

Nationally, I remain New York State's representative for the Physicians Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Paradigm Program that is spreading nationally. New York State is among the original six states with the approved POLST Paradigm Programs. To view programs across the nation, view POLST.org.

eMOLST

The electronic version of the MOLST (eMOLST) is currently under development by Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, in partnership with the Rochester RHIO health information exchange (HIE), as part of a HEAL 5 grant. In keeping with New York State's vision for open-system solutions, the eMOLST application is being developed following open architectural principles for the benefit of the community and other RHIOs across the state.

As part of this eMOLST project, a survey was sent to community stakeholders seeking their input about various workflows and technical approaches about an eMOLST system. We explored how we can support the current paper-based system and support a MOLST online form through a web-based application. In addition, we worked with RIT to create a web-based MOLST demonstration prototype. In 2010, we will be working with a local vendor to build this application.

The expected product will be an electronic/online version of the current MOLST form that upgrades the workflow around completing the information required for a legal medical order with automated user feedback for quality review and notification of missing information and training tools for users.

eMOLST forms will be made available on the Rochester RHIO HIE, and in turn the HIE can make those medical orders available to EMS, other providers and institutions across care settings at the point of care thereby ensuring a patient's wishes about the end-of-life treatment.

By moving the familiar pink form into a digital format and making it available through the Rochester RHIO health information exchange services, health care providers, including EMS, will be assured access to the MOLST in all sites of care including long term care, hospitals and the community. In turn, health care providers will follow medical orders signed by the patient's physician that are based on the patient's goals for care and reflect informed decisions established with the patient and his or her clinical team.

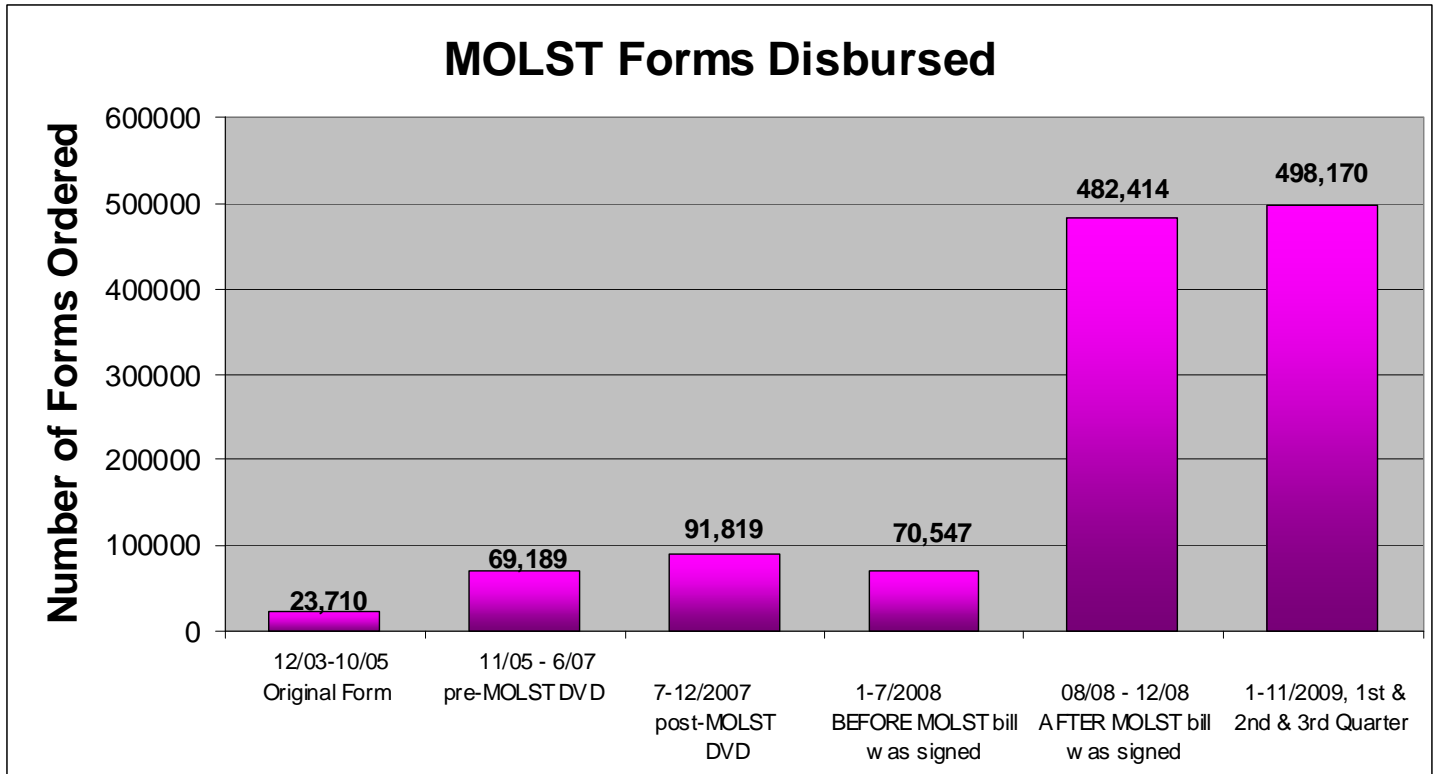
Enhanced Reimbursement Model for Thoughtful Advance Care Planning Discussions

Patients deserve an opportunity to "Know Their Choices and Share Their Wishes."

The Unwarranted Clinical Variations in End-of-Life Care Workgroup jointly led by Excellus BlueCross BlueShield and the University of Rochester Medical Center presented "Beyond the Health Care Proxy: Advance Care Planning for Patients with Serious Illness" on November 7, 2009. This all-day, train-the-trainer Conference for Rochester area physicians educated them on how to have thoughtful advance care planning conversations with seriously ill patients and how to get paid for them through a new enhanced reimbursement model. The [MOLST/Advance Directive Discussion Documentation Form](#) serves as a key

documentation resource. Initial training for office and billing managers was held in December 2009 (additional session scheduled in 2010) in collaboration with Monroe County Medical Society.

MOLST Forms! Each year the number of MOLST forms disbursed across New York State coincides with the increase in implementation of the MOLST program and form. The graph below displays serial disbursement of MOLST forms (through 3rd Quarter 2009), as correlated with key milestones.



Pat

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