

Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) Update

Dear Colleagues,

The response has been overwhelmingly positive since Governor Paterson signed legislation that makes MOLST permanent and statewide. Multiple questions have been fielded from across the state regarding MOLST implementation. Additionally, queries have come from across the country asking: "How did the MOLST Program develop and achieve success?"

What's New?

- A new web page for EMS training is now available. Visit the EMS MOLST Training page here:
http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/for_professionals/molst_training_center/ems_molst_training.
- The Annual review of the MOLST Program with NYSDOH was recently held. Revisions of the form are forthcoming given the change in Public Health Law. Suggested revisions from the field were also reviewed. A form with final approval from NSYDOH is forthcoming. *A MOLST Update will be sent as soon as it is available.*
- I have revised the MOLST FAQs and have added more than 30 additional FAQs. *If you have additional questions, please send to me ASAP.*
- MOLST resources, including the MOLST Manual are being revised in light of the passage of the MOLST bill.
- MOLST Training Days are scheduled for Buffalo, Binghamton and Jamestown. When promotional materials are available, these will be posted at http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/news_events/events.

How did the MOLST Program develop and achieve success?

The MOLST Program is a project of the Community-wide End-of-life/Palliative Care Initiative (Initiative), a community collaborative that focuses on implementation of a set of broad end-of-life/palliative care projects that result in quality improvements in the lives of those facing death.

- View information on the Initiative: http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/about_us
- View outcomes of the Initiative: http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/research_references/research

Through leadership and administrative support for the Initiative provided by Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, the Initiative, originally based in Rochester, has spread through the Health Plan service region in Upstate New York. With the MOLST Program, the reach of the Initiative extends across New York State. The success of the Program is attributable to partnerships with the New York State Department of Health, statewide professional associations, particularly the Medical Society of the State of New York, and healthcare and community collaborative partnerships throughout New York State.

Six key steps were employed in the development and implementation of the Initiative and its projects like the MOLST Program

- Define Vision, Mission, Values
- Employ results-oriented approach
- Design effective, inclusive coalition membership
- Create effective leadership
- Demonstrate strong commitment to purpose
- Monitor performance

The history of the development and statewide implementation of the MOLST Program in New York State, including background on the need for legislative advocacy, is highlighted in the Program Description, found here:

<http://www.ohsu.edu/ethics/polst/programs/docs/ny+program+description.pdf>.

A successful MOLST Pilot Project resulted in Governor David Paterson signing into law a bill that made MOLST permanent and statewide, thereby changing the scope of practice for EMS across New York State. MOLST is consistent with PHL§2977(3) and cannot be altered. MOLST has been reviewed annually since 2005, complies with New York State Public Health Law, and has been adapted to meet clinical needs. View the press release here:

http://www.compassionandsupport.org/pdfs/news/MOLST_Press_Release.070908_.pdf.

Target performance outcome measures were established including:

- New York State will amend public health law and make MOLST permanent and statewide
- Patient preferences will be honored at the end-of-life.

To support statewide implementation and training needs, several final products were developed, including, but not limited to:

- **MOLST Training Center:**
http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/for_professionals/molst_training_center
- **MOLST Training Videos** with online CME/CE credits:
http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/for_professionals/molst_training_center/videos
- **Tube Feeding Guidelines:**
http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/for_professionals/molst_training_center/tube_feeding_guidelines
- **Community Conversations on Compassionate Care (CCCC) Video:**
http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/for_patients_families/advance_care_planning/video
- **Advance Care Planning Clinical Pathways:**
 - Life Expectancy >1 Year:
http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/for_professionals/advanced_care_planning_-_professionals/life_expectancy_greater_than_1_year
 - Life Expectancy <1 Year:
http://www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/for_professionals/advanced_care_planning_-_professionals/life_expectancy_less_than_1_year

Thank you for your support of the MOLST Program. Have a terrific Labor Day weekend!



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