

# NEW JERSEY PRACTITIONER ORDERS FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT (POLST)

Follow these orders, then contact physician/APN. This Medical Order Sheet is based on the current medical condition of the person referenced below and their wishes stated verbally or in a written advance directive. Any section not completed implies full treatment for that section. Everyone will be treated with dignity and respect.

Person Name (last, first, middle)

Date of Birth

<b>A</b>	<b>GOALS OF CARE</b> <i>(See reverse for instructions. This section does not constitute a medical order.)</i>	
<b>B</b>	<b>MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS:</b> <i>Person is breathing and/or has a pulse</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Full Treatment.</b> Use all appropriate medical and surgical interventions as indicated to support life. If in a nursing facility, transfer to hospital if indicated. See section D for resuscitation status. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Limited Treatment.</b> Use appropriate medical treatment such as antibiotics and IV fluids as indicated. May use non-invasive positive airway pressure. Generally avoid intensive care. <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer to hospital for medical interventions. <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer to hospital only if comfort needs cannot be met in current location. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Symptom Treatment Only.</b> Use aggressive comfort treatment to relieve pain and suffering by using any medication by any route, positioning, wound care and other measures. Use oxygen, suctioning and manual treatment of airway obstruction as needed for comfort. Use Antibiotics only to promote comfort. Transfer only if comfort needs cannot be met in current location. Additional Orders: _____	
<b>C</b>	<b>ARTIFICIALLY ADMINISTERED FLUIDS AND NUTRITION:</b> <i>Always offer food/fluids by mouth if feasible and desired.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No artificial nutrition. <span style="float: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Defined trial period of artificial nutrition.  <input type="checkbox"/> Long-term artificial nutrition.                 </span>	
<b>D</b>	<b>CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR)</b> <i>Person has no pulse and/or is not breathing</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Attempt resuscitation/CPR <input type="checkbox"/> Do not attempt resuscitation/DNAR Allow <u>N</u> atural <u>D</u> eath	<b>AIRWAY MANAGEMENT</b> <i>Person is in respiratory distress with a pulse</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Intubate/use artificial ventilation as needed <input type="checkbox"/> Do not intubate - Use O <sub>2</sub> , manual treatment to relieve airway obstruction, medications for comfort.
<b>E</b>	If I lose my decision-making capacity, I authorize my surrogate decision maker, listed below, to modify or revoke the NJ POLST orders in consultation with my treating physician/APN. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No _____ Print Name of Surrogate <i>(address on reverse)</i> <span style="float: right;">Phone Number</span>	
<b>F</b>	<b>SIGNATURES:</b> <i>I have discussed this information with my physician/APN.</i> Signature _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Person Named Above <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care Representative/Legal Guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Civil Union Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Parent of Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Other Surrogate _____	Has the person named above made an anatomical gift: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <i>These orders are consistent with the person's medical condition, known preferences and best known information.</i> _____ PRINT - Physician/APN Name <span style="float: right;">Phone Number</span> _____ Physician/APN Signature (Mandatory) <span style="float: right;">Date/Time</span>

# HIPAA PERMITS DISCLOSURE OF POLST TO OTHER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AS NECESSARY

PRINT PERSON'S NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)

DATE OF BIRTH

PRINT PERSON'S ADDRESS

## CONTACT INFORMATION

PRINT SURROGATE HEALTH CARE DECISION MAKER

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

## DIRECTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL

### COMPLETING POLST

- Must be completed by a physician or advance practice nurse.
- Use of original form is strongly encouraged. Photocopies and faxes of signed POLST forms may be used.
- Any incomplete section of POLST implies full treatment for that section.

### REVIEWING POLST

POLST orders are actual orders that transfer with the person and are valid in all settings in New Jersey. It is recommended that POLST be reviewed periodically, especially when:

- The person is transferred from one care setting or care level to another, or
- There is a substantial change in the person's health status, or
- The person's treatment preferences change.

### MODIFYING AND VOIDING POLST - *An individual with decision making capacity can always modify/void a POLST at any time.*

- A surrogate, if designated in Section E on the front of this form, may, at any time, void the POLST form, change his/her mind about the treatment preferences or execute a new POLST document based upon the person's known wishes or other documentation such as an advance directive.
- A surrogate decision maker may request to modify the orders based on the known desires of the person or, if unknown, the person's best interest.
- To void POLST, draw a line through all sections and write "VOID" in large letters. Sign and date this line.

### SECTION A

What are the specific goals that we are trying to achieve by this treatment plan of care? This can be determined by asking the simple question: What are your hopes for the future?" Examples include but not restricted to:

- Longevity, cure, remission
- Better quality of life
- Live long enough to attend a family event (wedding, birthday, graduation)
- Live without pain, nausea, shortness of breath
- Eating, driving, gardening, enjoying grandchildren

*Medical providers are encouraged to share information regarding prognosis in order for the person to set realistic goals.*

### SECTION B

- When "limited treatment" is selected, also indicate if the person prefers or does not prefer to be transferred to a hospital for additional care.
- IV medication to enhance comfort may be appropriate for a person who has chosen "symptom treatment only."
- Non-invasive positive airway pressure includes continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), or bi-level positive airway pressure (BiPAP).
- Comfort measures will always be provided.

### SECTION C

Oral fluids and nutrition should always be offered if medically feasible and if they meet the goals of care determined by the person or surrogate. The administration of nutrition and hydration whether orally or by invasive means shall be within the context of the person's wishes, religion and cultural beliefs.

### SECTION D

Make a selection for the person's preferences regarding CPR and a separate selection regarding airway management.

### SECTION E

This section is applicable in situations where the person has decision making capacity when the POLST form is completed. A surrogate may **ONLY** void or modify an existing POLST form, or execute a new one, if named in this section by the person.

### SECTION F

POLST must be signed by a practitioner, meaning a physician or APN, to be valid. Verbal orders are acceptable with follow-up signature by physician/APN in accordance with facility/community policy. POLST orders should be signed by the person/surrogate. Indicate on the signature line if the person/surrogate is unable to sign, declined to sign, or a verbal consent is given.

**SEND ORIGINAL FORM WITH PERSON WHENEVER TRANSFERRED**