



Oregon

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DATE: April 7, 2020
TO: Community Based Care Providers
FROM: Safety, Oversight, and Quality



SUBJECT: COVID-19 and Practitioner Orders for Life-Sustaining

The Practitioner Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) is a portable form that records a person's treatment wishes towards the end of life. During the Coronavirus Pandemic, it is important for residents to have a POLST that matches the resident's wishes. The POLST form is not a substitute for a do not resuscitate order. A POLST form does not replace an Advance Directive or the requirement that residents should be offered an opportunity to complete an Advance Directive OAR 411-086-004 (3).

Facility Guidance:

- Facilities may not require residents to have a POLST form, but it is highly recommended.
- POLST forms should never be mandatory to admission for any Long-Term Care Facility, but highly recommended with context of the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- If the resident has a POLST review it before sending them to local hospital and follow the resident's wishes with POLST treatment plan.

Here is a link to guidance on POLST and the Coronavirus prepared by Susan W. Tolle, MD, Chair, Oregon POLST:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2btWAs3_f4&feature=youtube

We appreciate all your dedicated work and collaboration during the COVID-19 health crisis to keep residents, staff and Oregonians safe.

The Department will continue to provide information to providers through Administrative Alerts as new information is available. For additional questions please email CBC.Team@dhs.oha.state.or.us

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