



Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment

A new process for documenting healthcare treatment preferences

The Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST) is a 1-page, 2-sided document that **summarizes patient preferences** for certain medical treatments including: CPR, general scope of treatment, and artificial nutrition (tube feeding).

Persons may **refuse treatment, request full treatment, or specify limitations.**

The MOST is intended to be used by people who are already chronically or seriously ill and in frequent contact with healthcare providers, or already receiving care in a nursing home.

The MOST is completed by the patient or authorized healthcare agent (the person appointed to make medical decisions when the patient can't) **in conversation with a healthcare provider who can explain the choices and what they mean.** The form is then signed by the patient/agent and a physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician's assistant.

The physician/APN/PA signature **turns patient preferences into medical orders.** This means that the choices are backed up by a medical professional's judgment and **must be honored by other healthcare providers.**

An authorized healthcare agent (Medical Power of Attorney, Proxy, or Guardian) may complete a MOST for a person who is not able to make healthcare decisions due to illness or injury.

The MOST does not replace or revoke other advance directives such as a living will or CPR directive. However, previously completed advance directives must be reviewed and taken into account when the MOST is completed. (Download the MOST Instruction booklet for guidance on how to reconcile conflicts between documents. Go to our website, www.ColoradoAdvanceDirectives.com, navigate to Links and Downloads, MOST Downloads).

IMPORTANT

The MOST belongs to the patient and should stay with the patient, even when he or she transfers between healthcare settings, such as hospital and long-term care facility, hospice, or home.

Copies may be made for medical records or the patient's chart, but the original is the patient's personal property.

A section on the back of the MOST **prompts patients and providers to regularly review**, confirm, or update choices based on changing choices and conditions.

The original is brightly colored for easy identification, but **photocopies, faxes, and electronic scans are also valid**.

The MOST should be kept handy and visible—on the refrigerator or near the front door at home or in the nursing home resident’s medical chart—in case emergency medical personnel need to refer to it.

A blank master form may be downloaded from the CADC website. Go to www.ColoradoAdvanceDirectives.com, navigate to Links and Downloads, MOST Downloads).

For more information on the MOST, visit the Colorado Advance Directives Consortium website, www.ColoradoAdvanceDirectives.com