SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO COLORADO’S MEDICAL ORDERS FOR SCOPE OF TREATMENT FORM, 2015

Originally released in 2010, the Colorado Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment form has been reviewed and revised in a year-long process including input from stakeholders and emerging national standards. The new form is effective April 16, 2015. Completed forms using the original version will remain valid, but should be updated when appropriate. This is a brief summary of the changes to the form. More information and educational resources are available on the Colorado Advance Directives Consortium website, www.coloradoasadvancedirectives.com.

Top section:

- Minor edits to general instructions include reminder that if Section A or B is not completed, full treatment is implied. However, if Section C is not completed, no one of the choices is implied—further conversation with the patient is indicated.

- Reminder included to healthcare professional (HPC) completing the form to ask patient about previously completed advance directives. The MOST should reflect the patient’s current wishes and decisions, but it is important for other documents to be consistent. If previously completed advance directives conflict, it may create confusion. Prior documents can be updated. If the MOST is being completed by a healthcare agent or guardian for an incapacitated patient, the MOST must reflect and be consistent with previously completed documents.

Section A:

- Order of preferences has been changed to show Yes CPR first, No CPR second.

- Reminder to HPC completing the form that if “Yes CPR” is selected in Section A, the only possible choice in Section B is “Full Treatment.” However, if the patient selects “No CPR” in Section A, any one of the three choices in Section B is clinically appropriate.
Section B:

- Options in Section B have been re-ordered so that Full Treatment is first.
- Options have been rephrased for greater clarity of intent and the goal of the option has been added. HCPs completing the form should ask patients about their goals for care/treatment and select the option that aligns most closely with the patient’s stated goal.
- First responders should note instructions regarding transfer.

Section C (formerly Section D): In 2010 form, Section C addressed the use of antibiotics. This section has been removed. The new Section C is equivalent to the previous Section D.

- This section addresses Artificially Administered Nutrition only (not including fluids).
- Choices have been simplified/clarified to focus on timeframe and goals.

Section D (formerly Section E) and Signatures:

- Patient or authorized decision maker signature has been moved to the front of the form so that all necessary signatures are in the same section.