



Policy: Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST)

Policy Number: 873-0053

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Policy: It is the intent of PMH Medical Center to comply with all current Physician Orders for life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms that express definitive patient preferences upon presentation, and to document definitive patient preferences for treatment via POLST form upon discharge when appropriate.

Purpose: The goal of the Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) program is to effectively communicate the wishes of seriously ill patients to have or to limit life-sustaining medical treatment as they move from one care setting to another. The POLST form is a tool that facilitates this decision process. The POLST form also ensures that a patient's end-of-life care decisions are made known to health care providers, family members, and emergency personnel.

The POLST is optional and not required.

Procedure: To provide a process for POLST forms so the definitive patient preferences are considered when developing orders and plan of care for patient.

Patient admitted to PMH with a completed POLST:

- The RN will review and validate the POLST form content with the patient/surrogate. This information will be conveyed to the admitting physician and code orders obtained for this admission. Staff will honor the directions on the POLST form while the nurse attempts to reach the physician to clarify code status/orders (not to exceed 24 hours) unless the patient/surrogate indicate they do not want those directions followed.
- No Code / Limited Code orders will be documented in the EMR on the Patient's medical record.
- Place the original POLST order form in order section of the patient's chart and retain there until the patient is discharged.
- Upon discharge, make a copy for the chart and return the original POLST (green form) to the patient/surrogate.

Completing a POLST form while a patient is at PMH:

- If a patient/surrogate chooses to complete a POLST form prior to being discharge from PMH, obtain a POLST form for the Physician and patient/surrogate to complete and sign.
- No Code / Limited Code orders will be documented in the EMR on the Patient's medical record.
- Place the original POLST order form in order section of the patient's chart and retain there until the patient is discharged.
- Upon discharge, make a copy for the chart and return the original POLST (green form) to the patient/surrogate.

Review of the POLST form:

- The Physician and patient/surrogate may review/revise the POLST for at anytime by using the designated section of the form or voiding the old form and completing a new one.
- During discharge planning, the physician may wish to review the POLST to see if it needs revision or the patient's condition warrants review/revision prior to discharging home or transferring patient to another facility