

Program Description for: **MAINE**

Name: Eileen McDonald

Mail Address: MaineHealth

Title:

100 Oak Street

Phone: 207-662-0765

Portland, ME 04101

Fax: 207-662-0770

E-mail: Mcdone1@mainehealth.org

Date Completed: 10/26/09

Date Updated:

Program Name: POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment)

State or Region: Maine

Area of Use: Statewide

- Program Status:**
- No Program (possibly state contacts)
 - Developing Program
 - Endorsed by National POLST Paradigm Initiative Task Force

Name of program / form:

Yes	No	Optional	POSSIBLE POLST PARADIGM COMPONENTS
X			1. Form has a uniform, standardized color
X			2. Decisions reflected in the form are medical orders that must be followed by emergency personnel in the field and emergency rooms.
X			3. The form accompanies the patient across care settings
X			4. CPR / DNR section
X			5. Levels of interventions for #3
X			6. Levels of interventions for #4
X			7. Feeding Tube
X			8. Antibiotics
X			9. Basis for orders
X			10. Person completing form
X			11. Physician / NP / PA signature
X			12. Physician / NP / PA name & office number
X			13. Patient / Legal agent signature
X			14. Designation of legal agent name and number
X			15. Space for review
X			16. Statement about leeway (<i>is the patient's surrogate provided authority to interpret the goals and preference at the time decisions are made?</i>)

EXTENT OF USE:

Start year: 2003

Settings of skills: Mostly nursing facilities (NF/SNF) and Assisted Living facilities in Maine - some hospitals have indicated an interest in use of the form.

Range of use: Spotty use throughout the state of Maine - mostly individual facilities or small health systems.

Use by those under 18yrs: Yes.

Distributed per month: Unknown.

Distributed per year: Unknown.

HISTORY:

Born of impetus to address inappropriate or unwanted transfers from nursing facility to hospital [because Maine's Advance Directive form does not cover this issue.]

BARRIERS OVERCOME:

Still working on barriers. Barriers are: educating 6000+ EMS professionals, assuring facilities that if physician is not credentialed in their facility they can still accept form and validate patient's wishes upon admission, addressing education if POLST is different from advance directive.

STATE LAW AND REGULATIONS:

Maine is proceeding with a best practice model.

POLST IN THE HEALTH CARE SETTING:

Policies (hospitals, nursing homes, EMS, etc.):

In the process of determining this.

Registry for POLST Paradigm Forms:

No.

Management:

State of Maine contact Eileen McDonald at 207-662-0765.

Training for health care professionals:

LTC facilities are trained in how to read form. Some are trained in having the conversations with patients. EMS need to be trained. Hospital staff are largely new to the POLST paradigm; few hospital pilot projects are under way.

Training for the public and patients:

None.

CQI projects and research: