



Foundation for
Healthy Communities

POLST Revisions, June 2017

Beginning in June, 2017, New Hampshire POLST forms have been revised; this is intended to call your attention to the changes that have been made.

Summary: Changes have been made for clarification, based on the experience of users of the previous version, or to comply more carefully with the New Hampshire statute regarding portable DNR, and/or to comply with national standards. Some reconfigurations were made for space reasons.

The purpose and function of POLST remains the same: it is a physician/ARNP order to specify components of a care plan agreed to by patient and provider. It is intended for patients who are likely to be in the last year of life. It complies with the statutory definition of a portable DNR order.

What has been Changed?

Some patient identifiers: “gender” has become an open field rather than multiple-choice; Social Security Number suffix was not found to be useful; therefore dropped in this version.

SECTION A - “and/or” was added to comply with national standards.

SECTION A - re-ordered to create logical clarity wherein “yes” means to have all treatment available and “no” means to restrict interventions to targeted treatments

SECTION A - This will constitute a DNR order; No separate DNR order will be required. This important change means that no longer will an accompanying (pink) DNR order need to accompany this document

SECTION B - Language changes have been made to clarify and illustrate care goals, and interventions consistent with each goal. Blank lines re-labeled to invite care orders specific to each patients preferences and needs

SECTION C - Reference to “comfort” was removed to remove the implication that comfort was not a goal in the other choice categories

SECTION D - Clarifying the purpose of maximum consent for antibiotics

SECTION E - Change of phrasing to verify the time and documentation of discussion(s) with provider leading to this consent; clarifying whether consent was given by self, agent or guardian

PAGE TWO: Voiding POLST: Instructions changed to comply with specific requirements in statute for facility-residing vs. home-residing patients.

PAGE TWO: last lines, BOLD. Directing that original accompany patient between facilities, but accepting validity of copies or facsimiles if consistent with Facility or agency policy