

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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To all Providers, Case Managers, and DDP Staff,

I would like to clarify the new Provider Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms that are now being used across Montana. These have replaced the Comfort One forms that were used in the past.

Under ARM 37.10.101

(5) "POLST" means Provider Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment, a comprehensive statewide method of identifying a patient's wishes for providing palliative care, medical interventions, or withholding resuscitative measures to terminally ill patients who have declared living wills or for whom a DNR order has been issued.

This form is not to replace the Advance Directive Forms that are now in use with the PSP's. For anyone in Developmental Disability Services, POLST is only to be used when a terminal illness has been identified and stated in writing by the client's physician. Any Comfort One Form and Bracelet that has been issued in the past will still be honored by EMT's and health care providers.

Comfort One or POLST forms that have been issued to a client should be reviewed **annually** for appropriateness of the protocol. At times situations change, and the person is no longer considered terminally ill. In that case, any DNR protocol would be invalid and the Comfort One or POLST form should be destroyed.

For further information and access to forms, go to <http://polst.mt.gov>.

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