



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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### TRANSMITTAL

**FROM:** Tia Witherspoon-Udocox, MBA  
Executive Director  
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**TO:** All Health Care Facilities and Programs

**Date:** March 15, 2026

**Re:** MOLST Order Form

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Maryland MOLST (Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) is a portable and enduring medical order form that contains orders about cardiopulmonary arrest and other life-sustaining treatments. On October 1, 2011, MOLST replaced the Maryland EMS DNR order form and the Instructions on Current Life-Sustaining Treatment Options form that was previously used primarily in nursing homes. This order form will increase the likelihood that a patient's wishes to receive or decline care are honored throughout the health care system.

Since orders on the MOLST form are valid in all settings, all health care facilities and programs must be prepared to recognize and implement these orders. Under the law and regulations, certain facilities are required to complete a Maryland MOLST form. Effective October 1, 2011, MOLST must be completed for all individuals admitted to nursing homes, assisted living programs, hospices, home health agencies, and dialysis centers. An assisted living program or a nursing home must also complete the MOLST form for a patient admitted prior to October 1, 2011 and who continues to reside in the assisted living program or nursing home as of April 1, 2012. In hospitals, MOLST must be completed by discharge for any inpatients being transferred to a nursing home, assisted living program, hospice, home health agency, dialysis center, or another hospital.

MOLST orders are signed by a physician or nurse practitioner who is licensed in Maryland. Even if the practitioner who signs the MOLST form is not on a facility's medical staff, the MOLST orders are still valid. MOLST does not change the Health Care Decisions Act or an individual's advance directive. It does not change who has the legal authority to make decisions on behalf of an individual who lacks the capacity to make health care decisions. A copy of a completed MOLST form shall be given to the patient or authorized decision maker within 48 hours of completion or sooner if the patient is transferred or discharged.

For additional information, email the Maryland MOLST program at [Maryland.MOLST@maryland.gov](mailto:Maryland.MOLST@maryland.gov) or visit [MarylandMOLST.org](http://MarylandMOLST.org)

**\*This transmittal is an update and replaces the original dated 08/29/2011\***