LOUISIANA PHYSICIAN ORDERS FOR SCOPE OF TREATMENT (LaPOST)

FIRST follow these orders, THEN contact physician. This is a Physician Order form based on the person’s medical condition and preferences. Any section not completed implies full treatment for that section. LaPOST complements an Advance Directive and is not intended to replace that document. Everyone shall be treated with dignity and respect. Please see www.La-POST.org for information regarding “what my cultural/religious heritage tells me about end of life care.”

PATIENT’S DIAGNOSIS OF LIFE LIMITING DISEASE AND IRREVERSIBLE CONDITION:

GOALS OF CARE:

A. CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR): PERSON IS UNRESPONSIVE, PULSELESS AND IS NOT BREATHING

- CPR/Attempt Resuscitation (requires full treatment in section B)
- DNR/Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (Natural Death)

When not in cardiopulmonary arrest, follow orders in B and C.

B. MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS: PERSON HAS PULSE OR IS BREATHING

- FULL TREATMENT (primary goal of prolonging life by all medically effective means) Use treatments in Comfort Focused treatment. Use mechanical ventilation, advanced airway interventions and cardioversion if indicated.
- SELECTIVE TREATMENT (primary goal of treating medical conditions while avoiding burdensome treatments) Use treatments in Comfort Focused treatment. Use medical treatment, including antibiotics and IV fluids as indicated. May use non invasive positive airway pressure (CPAP/BiPAP). Do not intubate. Generally avoid intensive care.
- COMFORT FOCUSED TREATMENT (primary goal is maximizing comfort and quality of life) Use oxygen, suctioning and manual treatment of airway obstruction as needed to relieve symptoms. (Do not use treatments listed in full or selective treatment unless consistent with goals of care. Transfer to hospital ONLY if comfort focused treatment cannot be provided in current setting.)

ADDITIONAL ORDERS: (e.g. dialysis, etc.)

C. ARTIFICIALLY ADMINISTERED FLUIDS AND NUTRITION: (Always offer food/fluids by mouth as tolerated)

- No artificial nutrition by tube.
- Trial period of artificial nutrition by tube. (Goal: ________)
- Long-term artificial nutrition by tube. (Goal: ________)

D. SUMMARY

- Discussed with: ☐ Patient (Patient has capacity) ☐ Personal Health Care Representative (PHCR)
- The basis for these orders is:
  - Patient’s declaration (can be oral or nonverbal)
  - Patient’s Personal Health Care Representative (Qualified Patient without capacity)
  - Patient’s Advance Directive, if indicated, patient has completed an additional document that provides guidance for treatment measures if he/she loses medical decision-making capacity.
  - Resuscitation would be medically non-beneficial.
  - Advance Directive dated ____________, available and reviewed
  - Advance Directive not available
  - No Advance Directive
  - Health care agent if named in Advance Directive: Name: ________
    Phone: ________

This form is voluntary and the signatures below indicate that the physician orders are consistent with the patient’s medical condition and treatment plan and are the known desires or in the best interest of the patient who is the subject of the document.

PRINT PHYSICIAN’S NAME ________ PHYSICIAN SIGNATURE (MANDATORY) ________ PHYSICIAN PHONE NUMBER ________ DATE (MANDATORY) ________

PRINT PATIENT OR PHCR NAME ________ PATIENT OR PHCR SIGNATURE (MANDATORY) ________ DATE (MANDATORY) ________

PHCR RELATIONSHIP ________ PHCR ADDRESS ________ PHCR PHONE NUMBER ________

SEND FORM WITH PERSON WHENEVER TRANSFERRED OR DISCHARGED

USE OF ORIGINAL FORM IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED. PHOTOCOPIES AND FAXES OF SIGNED LaPOST FORMS ARE LEGAL AND VALID.
DIRECTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

COMPLETING LaPOST
• Must be completed by a physician and patient or their personal health care representative based on the patient’s medical conditions and preferences for treatment.
• LaPOST must be signed by a physician and the patient or PHCR to be valid. Verbal orders are acceptable from physician and verbal consent may be obtained from patient or PHCR according to facility/community policy.
• Use of the brightly colored original form is strongly encouraged. Photocopies and faxes of signed LaPOST are legal and valid.

USING LaPOST
• Completing a LaPOST form is voluntary. Louisiana law requires that a LaPOST form be followed by health care providers and provides immunity to those who comply in good faith. In the hospital setting, a patient will be assessed by a physician who will issue appropriate orders that are consistent with the patient’s preferences.
• LaPOST does not replace the advance directive. When available, review the advance directive and LaPOST form to ensure consistency and update forms appropriately to resolve any conflicts.
• The personal health care representative includes persons described who may consent to surgical or medical treatment under RS 40:1159.4 and may execute the LaPOST form only if the patient lacks capacity.
• If the form is translated, it must be attached to a signed LaPOST form in ENGLISH.
• Any section of LaPOST not completed implies full treatment for that section.
• A semi-automatic external defibrillator (AED) should not be used on a person who has chosen “Do Not Attempt Resuscitation”.
• Medically assisted nutrition and hydration is optional when it cannot reasonably be expected to prolong life, would be more burdensome than beneficial or would cause significant physical discomfort.
• When comfort cannot be achieved in the current setting, the person, including someone with “Comfort focused treatment,” should be transferred to a setting able to provide comfort (e.g., pinning of a hip fracture).
• A person who chooses either “Selective treatment” or “Comfort focused treatment” should not be entered into a Level I trauma system.
• Parenteral (IV/Subcutaneous) medication to enhance comfort may be appropriate to a person who has chosen “Comfort focused treatment.”
• Treatment of dehydration is a measure which may prolong life. A person who desires IV fluids should indicate “Comfort focused treatment.”
• A person with capacity or the personal representative (if the patient lacks capacity) can revoke the LaPOST at any time and request alternative treatment based on the known desires of the individual or, if unknown, the individual's best interests.
• Please see links on www.La-POST.org for “what my cultural/religious heritage tells me about end of life care.”

The duty of medicine is to care for patients even when they cannot be cured. Physicians and their patients must evaluate the use of technology available for their personal medical situation. Medical judgments about the use of technology to maintain life must reflect the inherent dignity of human life and the purpose of medical care.

REVISING LaPOST
This LaPOST should be reviewed periodically such as when the person is transferred from one care setting or care level to another, or there is a substantial change in the person’s health status. A new LaPOST should be completed if the patient wishes to make a substantive change to their treatment goal (e.g., reversal of prior directive). When completing a new form, the old form must be properly voided and retained in the medical chart.

To void the LaPOST form, draw line through “Physician Orders” and write “VOID” in large letters. This should be signed and dated.

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