



## **POLST (Practitioner Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment)**

1. POLST is a new law in New Jersey, effective December, 2011
2. As of July 1, 2013 all NJ hospitals must be in compliance with POLST
3. The NJ POLST is a green two-sided form
4. The POLST form is appropriate for patients with serious chronic illness, advanced frailty or terminal illness
5. The POLST form converts an individual's preferences about life-sustaining treatment and resuscitation into a comprehensive set of actionable medical orders
6. The POLST form is recognized and honored across all treatment settings
7. Health care professionals have a legal responsibility to honor POLST orders at the point of contact
8. Valid POLST orders must be signed by a physician or advanced practice nurse and the patient or surrogate.

What should I do if a patient arrives with a valid POLST?

1. The physician will be notified of the POLST by the nurse and asked to review it for any immediate orders.
2. The physician should discuss and verify the POLST with the patient or authorized surrogate, and document that discussion in the medical record.
3. The physician's orders should include those necessary to implement the POLST (e.g. DNR).
4. Hospital staff will copy the POLST (both sides) and both the original and copy will be placed in the front of the Doctor's Order Section of the chart.
5. The original green POLST must be returned to the patient/surrogate upon discharge