

**STATE OF NEW YORK – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Regional Emergency Medical Service Councils  
Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee Members

**From:** Edward G. Wronski, Director  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

**Subject:** Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST)

**Date:** July 21, 2008

This is to advise you that on July 7, 2008 the Governor signed Chapter 197 of the Laws of 2008 which allows for the use of the MOLST form. The law is effective *immediately*. The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services is preparing a policy statement discussing this law and the use of the MOLST form that will be sent to you and all ambulance and EMS services. MOLST may be honored immediately and used instead of a non-hospital DNR order. The non-hospital DNR order is still a valid document and is an option for a patient. The MOLST form has now been approved as an alternative form.

Ambulance services and others may call you with questions. Please remember that the MOLST form and process is not a Department of Health program although it is supported by us. You may refer them to the WEB page housed at the MOLST Training Center at <http://www.compassionandsupport.org>. It is my understanding an updated EMS page is being prepared by Excellus BlueCross BlueShield to address the training needs of EMS providers since passage of this legislation.

Some key points that will help you answer questions about this law, MOLST and the existing DNR form are:

1. MOLST may be used instead of a non-hospital DNR form.
2. The non-hospital DNR form is still a valid form.
3. The MOLST form provides DNR information. It also contains instruction for advanced life support providers on whether to intubate the patient or not when the patient has progressive or impending pulmonary failure without acute cardiopulmonary arrest.
4. The MOLST form is a bright pink, multiple paged form that is easily identified.
5. The MOLST includes information to be used in other health care settings such as the hospital.

Once the bureau policy is finalized we will place it on the WEB and include a link to the MOLST site.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Cc: Dr. Mark Henry  
Dr. Deborah Funk  
EMS Program Agencies  
DOH Regional Offices