MOST = Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment

Key Facts About MOST for Patients and Loved Ones

The MOST form is a written order from a doctor that helps give people with serious health conditions, or the frail elderly, more control over their own care. It can help you get the care you want and also protect you from getting medical treatments you DO NOT want.

• The MOST is voluntary. You are not required to complete a MOST form. The form is an optional tool to help you get the care that is right for you.

• Don’t complete the form until you’ve had an in-depth discussion. This form should only be completed after you’ve had an in-depth discussion with your doctor or another trained medical professional who can explain the form’s medical terms and options. This conversation is very important and will address your overall health, your health care wishes and goals for your care. It is very helpful to include your family members in the conversation, even if they are not your designated decision-makers, so they understand your health condition and are aware of your treatment wishes.

Please go to www.CompassionateCareNC.org or email NCPCC@NCMedSoc.org for more information.
• The MOST form is not valid until it is signed by both you (or your designated decision-maker) AND your doctor.

• A MOST form does NOT replace an advance directive. An advance directive is still the best way to appoint a legal health care decision-maker. A Health Care Power of Attorney is recommended for all adults, regardless of your age or current health. A MOST works together with your advance directive, providing more specific detail regarding care wishes and goals of care.

• The original bright pink form travels with you to different settings – home, assisted living, nursing facility or hospital. Wherever you go, the original pink form should go with you. When you are at home, it should be kept in an easy to access place.

• You only have to complete a new MOST if your treatment wishes change.

• Because the MOST form is a physician order, emergency medical personnel must follow its instructions regarding CPR and other emergency medical care. The MOST form is printed on bright pink paper so it can be easily recognized by all health care personnel.

• You can request different treatment or void the MOST form, at any time. To change your MOST instructions, complete a new MOST form and have your doctor sign it. To void the prior form, follow the instructions on the back of the form. We also recommend that you draw a line through sections A through D, write “VOID” in large letters, then sign and date the line.

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