

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
POLICY

Subject: Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST)
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POLICY STATEMENT

Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST) is an approach to end-of-life planning that helps obtain, document and honor patient treatment wishes. MOST emphasizes:

Advance care planning conversations between patients, health care professionals and loved ones;

- Shared decision-making between a patient and his/her health care professional about the scope of treatment the patient would like to receive at the end of his/her life; and
- Ensuring patient wishes are honored.

MOST is for patients with serious illness or frailty whose health care professional would not be surprised if they died within a year. For these patients, their current health status indicates the need for standing medical orders. Another way to look at it: patients appropriate for a MOST conversation are those who are most likely to have a medical crisis (predictable based on diagnosis) but who may not want our current standard of care – which is to do everything possible for the purpose of saving and/or prolonging someone’s life. For healthy patients, an advance directive is the appropriate tool for making future end-of-life treatment wishes known.

With MOST, it is imperative that the completing of the MOST form involve informed, shared decision-making between patients and health care professionals. The conversation involves the patient discussing his/her values, beliefs, and goals for care while the health care professional presents the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment alternatives, including the benefits and burdens of life-sustaining treatment. Together they reach an informed decision and desired treatment based on the patient’s values, beliefs and goals for care.

MOST is voluntary and a patient should never be required to complete a MOST form.

The South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) shall work with other organizations to advance the adoption and recognition of MOST.

AUTHORITY

South Dakota State Medical Association Policy Council, 5/31/2019; Reaffirmed by South Dakota State Medical Association Board of Directors 6/1/2019.