

FAQs for Health Care Professionals

What is a Kentucky MOST form? MOST stands for Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment. It refers to a physician's order that documents and directs a patient's medical treatment preferences when facing life-limiting illnesses.

Is the Kentucky MOST document a legal form? Yes. The Kentucky MOST was approved by the Kentucky legislature in 2015 as KRS 311.602.

Who is appropriate for a Kentucky MOST form? A MOST form is primarily intended for patients who have an advanced chronic progressive illness. In addition to those who are seriously ill, a MOST form is appropriate for patients whose life expectancy is less than one year. Patients are not required to have a MOST form; it is optional.

Where do I obtain a Kentucky MOST form? You may download the form (website address and make this an active link to the form). It is the acceptable and prevailing medical practice that the MOST form be a single double-sided form, printed on pink paper, and maintained as a paper original in the patient's medical chart. If the patient's medical chart is maintained electronically, it is the acceptable and prevailing medical practice to scan the original of the MOST form (both sides) to the electronic record.

Do all physicians have to honor the patient's Kentucky MOST form? Physicians should honor the orders in the MOST form immediately. However, it is the acceptable and prevailing practice to review a MOST form at least annually or earlier. Instances in which the patient is admitted and/or discharged from a healthcare facility, there is a substantial change in the patient's health status, or the patient's preferences change are times in which it would be acceptable and prevailing practice to review a MOST form earlier.

Who initiates the conversation about the Kentucky MOST form? Either the patient and his /her family or the patient's health care provider can initiate the discussion.

Are physicians compensated for discussing the Kentucky MOST form with their patients? In 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will reimburse health care providers and other health care professionals if they choose to have advanced care planning discussions with their Medicare patients.

Is the Kentucky MOST form the same as an advanced directive? No. An advanced directive, or living will or Five Wishes, is a legal document that provides instructions specifying treatment decisions should a person be unable to speak for him/herself. It can be very specific or very vague and may be used to identify a health care surrogate. If the patient has an advanced directive, the name, position and signature of the individual certifying that the MOST form is in accordance with the advance directive should be included in Section E. In the event of conflicting directions, the provisions of the living will shall prevail.

Where can I find out more information about the Kentucky MOST form? For more information about Kentucky MOST, or to download a copy of the document, visit www.kymost.org.

