



# MOST

Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment

# COALITION

## Frequently Asked Questions for Health Care Providers

**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 form was approved by the Kentucky legislature in 2015 as KRS 311.602 (amended July 2022.)

**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 (<https://www.kymost.org/>). It is the acceptable and prevailing medical practice that the MOST form be a single double-sided form 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.

**Must first responders, physicians and other healthcare professionals honor the patient's Kentucky MOST form?** Medical providers should honor the orders in the MOST form immediately. However, it is the acceptable and prevailing practice to review a MOST form. 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?** Effective January 1, 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) pays health care providers and other health care professionals if they choose to have advance care planning discussions with their Medicare patients.

**Is the Kentucky MOST form the same as an advance directive?** No. An advance 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. Advance directives can be very specific or very vague and may be used to identify a health care surrogate. The MOST form is a physician order, signed by a physician, unlike an advance directive, which is not signed by a physician. If the patient has an advance 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.