

Process for POLST Addendum

1. Identify those residents who have a code status of DNR on their POLST
2. Identify whether the resident is able to participate in a discussion regarding medical care and, if so, that discussion would take place with the resident and also the resident representative. If the resident is unable to participate in the discussion regarding medical care, the discussion will take place with the resident representative.
3. Review with the resident/representative the current POLST guidelines regarding code status and what wishes were chosen under Section B of the POLST form.
4. Discuss with the resident/representative in addition to reviewing the current code status that is in place what medical care was chosen under Section B on the POLST. Identify what is currently in place.
5. Ask the resident/representative in the event that the individual could develop COVID-19 what level of medical care they wish to receive. Options include Full Treatment, Selective Treatment (where they may wish to go to the hospital, receive some form of medical care but do not wish to be placed on a ventilator or be intubated), or Comfort Measures. In the case of Comfort Measures, the facility would provide care to the resident within the facility and the focus would be on keeping the individual comfortable.
6. Document on the addendum to the POLST what care choices the resident/representative wish to have.
7. If the resident/representative wishes to be a Full Code due to COVID-19, a new POLST form would be completed. If the resident/representative wishes to continue the DNR status and make no change in Section B of the POLST this will be documented as well. If the resident/representative wishes to change what they have chosen in Section B this will be documented on the addendum form and verbal consent will be noted. If the resident is able to sign this form to attach to the POLST, the resident will be asked to sign it and document discussion that took place with resident/representative in addition. If the resident is unable to sign it, verbal consent will be identified on the form with a copy of the form sent to the resident representative for signature. The resident's physician will be informed of any changes in code status for their patient and a copy of the addendum will be placed in the chart.