

LOUISIANA PHYSICIAN ORDER FOR SCOPE OF TREATMENT (LaPOST)

1. Purpose: To improve end-of-life care by honoring the health care wishes and goals of those with life-limiting illnesses and irreversible conditions.
2. Definitions
 - 2.1. LaPOST stands for Louisiana Physician Order for Scope of Treatment and refers to a physician order that documents and directs a patient's preferences regarding medical care when faced with life limiting illnesses and irreversible conditions. LaPost is an easily identifiable gold document that translates the patient's goals of care and treatment preferences into a physician order that transfers across health care settings.
3. Procedure:
 - 3.1. LaPOST must be signed by a physician and the patient or his/her personal health care representative in order to be valid.
 - 3.2. Photocopies and faxes of the signed LaPOST document are legal and valid
 - 3.3. The LaPOST document is divided into four sections as outlined below. If a patient requires treatment, patient care should be initiated as ordered on the LaPOST document and then contact medical control or the patient's physician as indicated. If section A, B, or C is not completed, full treatment for that section should be provided until clarification is obtained.
 - 3.3.1. A—Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
 - 3.3.2. B—Medical Interventions
 - 3.3.3. C—Artificially Administered Fluids and Nutrition
 - 3.3.4. D—Summary
 - 3.3.5. The LaPOST document must be followed even if the physician who has signed the document is not on the medical staff at the facility that you are transporting the patient.
4. Documentation: as usual
5. Revocation of LaPOST
 - 5.1. The LaPOST document can be revoked at any time by the patient.
 - 5.2. If the patient no longer has decision making capacity, the personal health care representative may revoke the document if there is new knowledge of a change in the patient's wishes or medical condition.
 - 5.3. The document must have "VOID" written through sections A-C in large letters and must be signed and dated.
6. Other considerations
 - 6.1. If the LaPOST document conflicts with the patient's previously expressed health care instructions or advanced directive, then, to the extent of the conflict, the most recent expression of the patient's wishes are honored.
 - 6.2. A higher level of care is provided until additional information or clarification is received.