

## ***Practitioner Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment POLST***

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On February 22, 2013, a standardized Practitioner Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) was released. This mandates that all health care facilities ask patients whether they have a POLST. At Bridgewater Ambulatory Surgery Center we have made this a part of the admitting process.

POLST is a set of medical orders that help give seriously ill or frail elderly patients more control over their end-of-life care. It is used to provide a framework for health care professionals. The POLST complements an Advance Directive and is not intended to replace that document.

The facility policy is: that if an adverse event occurs during my stay, based on reasons of conscience, all reasonable efforts will be taken to revive me, including resuscitative or other stabilizing measures and I agree to proceed with the proposed procedure as scheduled. Advance Directive/Living Will complements and not replaces POLST. The reason for providing a copy POLST is in the event I require additional treatment at another health care facility, or hospital, my POLST will be forwarded to this facility. If you have POLST, please bring an original with you to the Center on the day of your surgery. Original document should be on a distinctive green form and be signed by both doctor/APN and patient/surrogate. A copy will be made and become a part of your medical record. If you do not have POLST, information is available at the reception desk.

If you don't have the Practitioner Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form, but would like more information, you can go to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services website: [www.state.nj.us/health](http://www.state.nj.us/health) and search for POLST or go to <https://www.nj.gov/health/advancedirective/polst/> You may also call the Bridgewater Ambulatory Surgery Center at 908-237-4016 for more information.

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