

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLINICIANS
COMPLETING VERMONT DNR/COLST FORM**

(DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER/CLINICIAN ORDERS FOR LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT)

Completing DNR/COLST

- The DNR/COLST form must be completed and signed by a health care clinician based on patient preferences and medical indications. A clinician is defined as a medical doctor, osteopathic physician, advance practice registered nurse or physician assistant. 18 V.S.A. § 9701(5). Verbal orders are acceptable with follow-up signature by the clinician in accordance with facility/community policy.
- Photocopies and Faxes of signed COLST forms are legal and valid; use of original is encouraged.

Special requirements for completing the DNR section of COLST (18 V.S.A. §§9708, 9709)

- A DNR order may be written on the basis of either informed consent or futility. Complete section A-2 for informed consent; Section A-3 for futility.
- An order based on informed consent must include the name of the patient, agent, guardian, or other individual giving informed consent. Beginning January 2018 the name of the patient, agent, guardian, or surrogate.
- An order based on futility must include a certification by the clinician and a second clinician that resuscitation would not prevent the imminent death of the patient, should the patient experience cardiopulmonary arrest.
- If patient is in a health care facility, the clinician must certify that the requirements of the facility's DNR protocol as required by 18 V.S.A. § 9709 have been met
- The clinician shall authorize the issuance of a DNR identification to the patient
- Clinician must certify that clinician has consulted or made an attempt to consult with the patient, and the patient's agent or guardian.

Using DNR Order - Section A CPR/DNR - 18 V.S.A. § 9708(i) and (l)

- A DNR Order (Section A of the DNR/COLST form) only precludes efforts to resuscitate in the event of cardiopulmonary arrest and does not affect other therapeutic interventions that may be appropriate for the patient. (Sections B through H of the COLST Form address other interventions.)
- Health care professionals, health care facilities, and residential care facilities must honor a DNR order or a DNR Identification unless the professional or facility believes in good faith, after consultation with the patient, agent or guardian, where possible and appropriate
 - that the patient wishes to have the DNR Order revoked, or
 - that the patient with the DNR identification or order is not the individual for whom the DNR order was issued.

Documentation of basis for belief in medical record is required.

Using COLST (Sections B through H)

- Any section of COLST not completed indicates that the COLST order does not address that topic. It may be addressed in a patient's advance directive, or in other parts of the medical record.
- Oral fluids and nutrition must always be offered if medically feasible.
- When comfort cannot be achieved in the current setting, the person, including someone with "comfort measures only", may be transferred to a setting able to provide comfort.
- Treatment of dehydration is a measure that may prolong life. For a patient who desires IV fluids the order should indicate "Limited Interventions" or Full Treatment."
- A patient with or without capacity, or another person authorized to provide consent, may revoke the COLST order at any time and request alternative treatment. Exceptions may apply. See, 18 V.S.A. § 9707(h) or 18 V.S.A. § 9707(g).
- Photocopies and faxes of signed DNR/COLST forms are legal and valid; use of original is encouraged.

Reviewing DNR/COLST

This form should be reviewed periodically and a new form completed if necessary when:

1. The patient is transferred from one care setting or care level to another, or
2. There is a substantial change in the patient's health status, or
3. The patient's treatment preferences change, or
4. At least annually, but more frequently in residential or inpatient settings.

Voiding DNR/COLST

To void this form or a part of it, draw a line through each page or section to be voided and write "VOID" in large letters.

HIPAA PERMITS DISCLOSURE OF COLST TO OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AS NECESSARY	
ORDERS FOR OTHER LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT (If patient/resident is breathing and/or has pulse)	
B	<p>INTUBATION AND MECHANICAL VENTILATION INSTRUCTIONS:</p> <p>If patient has DNR order and has progressive or impending pulmonary failure <u>without</u> acute cardiopulmonary arrest:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Intubate/Multi-Lumen Airway (DNI)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trial Period of Intubation/Multi-Lumen Airway and ventilation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Intubation/Multi-Lumen Airway and long-term mechanical ventilation if needed</p>
C	<p>TRANSFER TO HOSPITAL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Do not transfer unless comfort care needs cannot be met in current location or if severe symptoms cannot be otherwise controlled</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Transfer</p>
D	<p>ANTIBIOTICS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No antibiotics. Use other measures to relieve symptoms</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Determine use or limitation of antibiotics when infection occurs, with comfort as goal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Use antibiotics</p>
E	<p>ARTIFICIALLY ADMINISTERED NUTRITION: Offer food and liquids by mouth if feasible.</p> <p>Feeding tube</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No feeding tube</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trial period of feeding tube (Goal: _____)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Long-term feeding tube</p> <p>Parenteral nutrition or hydration (e.g. IV fluids or Total Parenteral Nutrition)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No parenteral nutrition or hydration</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trial period of parenteral nutrition or hydration (Goal: _____)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Long term parenteral nutrition or hydration</p>
F	<p>MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> COMFORT MEASURES ONLY Use medication by any route, positioning, wound care and other measures to relieve pain and suffering. Use oxygen, oral suction and manual treatment of airway obstruction as needed for comfort. Offer food and fluids by mouth, if feasible.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED ADDITIONAL INTERVENTIONS Includes care described above. Use medical treatments and IV fluids as indicated. <i>Avoid intensive care if possible.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FULL TREATMENT Includes care described above. Use defibrillation and intensive care as indicated.</p>
G	<p>Other Instructions :</p>

GIVE COPY TO PATIENT AND REPRESENTATIVE
SEND FORM WITH PATIENT WHENEVER TRANSFERRED OR DISCHARGED

HIPAA PERMITS DISCLOSURE OF COLST TO OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AS NECESSARY			
H	Informed Consent and Clinician Signature for COLST Order (Sections B through G)		
Informed Consent for this COLST Order has been obtained from:			
_____		_____	
Name of Person Giving Informed Consent (Patient if competent)		Relationship to Patient (Write "self" if Patient)	

Signature			
Clinician Signature for COLST			
_____		_____	
Signature of Clinician		Printed Name of Clinician	
Dated: _____			
Print Clinician Name		Clinician Signature (mandatory)	Phone Number
Person providing consent's signature (if available)		Date	
Other Contact Information (Optional)			
Name of Guardian, Agent or other Contact Person		Relationship	Phone Number
Name of Health Care Professional Preparing Form		Preparer Title/Facility	Phone Number
			Date Prepared
Review Date	Reviewer	Location of Review	Review Outcome
			<input type="checkbox"/> No Change <input type="checkbox"/> New form completed <input type="checkbox"/> Form Voided
			<input type="checkbox"/> No Change <input type="checkbox"/> New form completed <input type="checkbox"/> Form Voided
			<input type="checkbox"/> No Change <input type="checkbox"/> New form completed <input type="checkbox"/> Form Voided
SEND FORM WITH PATIENT WHENEVER TRANSFERRED OR DISCHARGED			