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CLINICAL BULLETIN			
Bulletin #	Title		Date Issued
#2021-05-21-01	Removal of One-Year Timeframe for End-of-Life Orders		May 21, 2020
Superseded	Released By:	Source:	Pages
N/A	Maine EMS	MDPB	1
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The Maine EMS Medical Direction and Practices Board (MDPB) is in the final phases of the 2021 Maine EMS Protocol updates. In anticipation of these updates there is one change that Maine EMS and the MDPB would like to highlight and implement immediately.

Grey 1 is the *Do Not Resuscitate Guidelines*. Section C, number 2 addresses Non-EMS actionable medical orders and specifically names the Physician (or Medical) Orders for Life Sustaining Treatments (POLST or MOLST) forms. In prior collaboration with the Maine POLST Coalition, the protocol required a POLST/MOLST form to be honored if “understandable to the crew and if it is dated within 1 (one) year.”

In some cases, the COVID-19 pandemic has created barriers to updating these forms. In addition, the National POLST Initiative has moved to eliminating expiration dates on POLST or MOLST forms. While it is common that these documents are reviewed regularly, it is no longer required that the documents be re-dated after that review.

The 2021 protocols will reflect these changes and section C, number 2 will read as follows: “Non-EMS actionable medical order (i.e. POLST/MOLST, etc.). A written order executed by a patient’s personal physician/PA/NP should be honored if it is understandable to the crew. Follow the order as written.” **Please recognize, this change eliminates the requirement for the form to be dated within 1 (one) year.**

In an effort to ensure that patient’s wishes at their end of life are always honored, Maine EMS and the MDPB request this specific element of the 2021 Maine EMS Protocol updates be made reflective immediately.

For questions or concerns, please contact Maine EMS.

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