

patient does not make a decision regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation, unless CPR has been determined to be medically ineffective.

Under Maryland law, a physician is not required to administer a medically ineffective treatment, even if the patient or authorized decision maker wants that treatment. A treatment may be withheld for this reason if two physicians certify that a treatment would be medically ineffective, if the patient has been told of this opinion, and if the patient has been given a reasonable chance to transfer to the care of another health care provider. If these steps have taken place, an order to withhold medically ineffective treatment may be included in a MOLST form.

The Parts of the MOLST Form

Part 1. CPR (Resuscitation Status)

How do you want health care providers to respond if your heart or breathing suddenly stops? One choice is for CPR to be attempted in an effort to extend your life. The other choice is that CPR is not attempted, allowing death to occur naturally. Don't assume that CPR is as effective as it appears to be on television. Talk to your physician about the realistic chances that CPR might succeed, given your medical condition, and the likely impact of surviving CPR on your overall condition and outlook (prognosis).

If you choose not to have CPR attempted, death will be allowed to occur naturally. You may still receive other treatments and have other tests. DNR means that if your heart stops beating or your lungs stop breathing, that the doctors will not use machines or other treatments to try to prolong your life at that point.

Before you lose a pulse or stop breathing (have an arrest), you have options for how aggressively you want EMS providers (medics) and other health care providers to try to prevent you from going into a cardiopulmonary arrest.

Under Option A-1, comprehensive efforts will be made to attempt to prevent an arrest. If you have a cardiac or pulmonary arrest, you will not be given CPR. These comprehensive efforts would include medications needed to attempt to stabilize you as well as artificial ventilation and intubation. Should you fail to breathe on your own, a hard plastic tube would be put through your mouth and into your