



## ***Fast Facts: TPOPP for Long-Term Care (LTC)***

### **What is TPOPP?**

Transportable Physician Orders for Patient Preferences (TPOPP) is an initiative designed to improve the quality of care people receive at the end of life by translating patient/resident goals and preferences into medical orders for treatment.

### **What is the TPOPP form?**

The TPOPP form is a bright pink piece of paper that can communicate patient preferences regarding life-sustaining medical treatment. When signed by a patient (or a recognized decision maker) and a physician licensed in Kansas or Missouri, it becomes a medical order. Providers at all sites of care should follow the medical orders.

### **Who should have a TPOPP form?**

Persons with advanced progressive chronic illness, those who are terminally ill, or are interested in further defining their care wishes. Many residents in long-term care may benefit from TPOPP.

### **Where did TPOPP begin?**

TPOPP is based on a paradigm that originated in Oregon in the early 1990s: Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST). Today POLST paradigm programs are in over 40 states at varying levels of saturation. A Kansas City Metropolitan TPOPP task force representing many hospital and health care providers created TPOPP. Since 2009 a team has been working toward TPOPP implementation. In 2012 the Kansas-Missouri TPOPP Coalition was formed to coordinate efforts for TPOPP across the two states.

### **Who should complete the form with the resident?**

The TPOPP form provides a framework to engage in a rich and sensitive conversation with a resident (or recognized decision maker) about values, goals and preferences for care during serious illness and at end of life. A physician, nurse practitioner or other health care provider might facilitate such a conversation with the resident/family. Other members of the healthcare team may help explain the TPOPP form and support residents in making decisions. These team members should have special training specifically on the TPOPP conversation before assisting with completion of the form. The physician is responsible for reviewing the preferences and orders with resident (or recognized decision maker) before signing the TPOPP form.

### **Is TPOPP is voluntary?**

TPOPP is a voluntary form. Facilities cannot require that a resident complete a TPOPP form. TPOPP forms should not be included in the admission packet and should not be filled out as a checklist or admission requirement.

**What is the role of the physician?** TPOPP is a physician order. By signing the TPOPP form, the physician verifies that the orders on the form are consistent with the resident's medical conditions and preferences.

**When are TPOPP orders valid?**

The TPOPP form is valid when signed and dated by (1) the resident or if the resident lacks decision making capacity, the resident's recognized decision maker; and (2) the physician.

**What happens to the TPOPP form when the resident is transferred or discharged?**

When a resident is transferred or discharged the original TPOPP form is sent with the resident. A copy of the form should remain in the chart. The medical orders are recognized and followed by emergency medical providers if the resident is transferred.

**Is there a MDS Section S requirement?**

While MDS Section S requires facilities to report whether a resident has a POLST (TPOPP) form, it does not require facilities to use TPOPP nor does it require an individual resident to have a TPOPP form. Section S is used for data collection (not survey) purposes, thus accurate information is critical. If a resident does not have a TPOPP form, Section S should be completed to indicate so.

**Does TPOPP support resident-centered care?**

TPOPP aims to uphold and respect the resident's preferences for medical care during serious illness and at the end of life. TPOPP enhances the communication of these preferences at points of transitions.

**Is TPOPP education helpful?**

At the heart of the TPOPP program is education for all staff members, residents and family. Ongoing education will be important in program implementation.

**Where can I get more information?**

Visit the website of the Center for Practical Bioethics at [www.practicalbioethics.org](http://www.practicalbioethics.org), send an e-mail to [TPOPP@practicalbioethics.org](mailto:TPOPP@practicalbioethics.org) or call the TPOPP Managing Director at 816-979-1366.