

New category for advance directives BCPSLS Handlers All Health Authorities

June 24, 2019

What is changing?

A new **Category – Level 3** has been added to the BCPSLS taxonomy: MOST order / DNR order / advance directive not followed / incomplete.

Why have these changes been made?

Palliative care teams and Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST) working groups let us know that our previous way of collecting information about incidents related to advance care planning was not meeting their needs. They requested a new category that would capture **events related to MOST and Do Not Resuscitate** (**DNR**) **orders**, to help them better understand these types of issues and look at ways of preventing them from recurring.

BCPSLS Central Office worked with PSLS Coordinators from each health authority to create the new category, which captures incidents related to **documentation** of advance directives and advance directives **not being followed**.

What do I need to know?

Incidents related to advance directives should be categorized as follows:

Category - Level 1: Clinical process / procedure

Category – Level 2: Treatment / procedure / intervention

Category – Level 3: MOST order / DNR order / advance directive not followed / incomplete

Some examples of the types of incidents that should be categorized in this manner are as follows:

- 1. The electronic medical record indicates that the patient is designated C0 MOST, but no MOST order is listed in the patient's paper chart or orders.
- 2. The most responsible physician's notes indicate that the patient is designated M3 MOST, but there is no signed MOST form in the patient's chart.
- 3. The patient was found on the ground, unresponsive. Staff were unaware of any advance directives. CPR was initiated and Code Blue called. Subsequent review of the patient's chart indicated that the patient was designated M1 MOST.
- 4. The patient was found on the ground unresponsive. Staff were unaware of any advance directives, so they logged in to a computer to confirm status. Patient was designated C2 MOST and life-saving interventions were initiated; however, care was delayed by 2-3 minutes.

Where can I find more information?

Please contact your health authority PSLS Coordinator.