

MARYLAND POLST

Action Item: To develop a Maryland version of the Physician’s Orders for End-of-Life Care, a standard, easily recognized form to identify key elements of a plan of care, and recommend an implementation plan

Objective: To facilitate a patient’s receiving consistent care, in conformity with patient or proxy decisions, at all sites

If the action were successful, would it likely affect a quantitative measure of Maryland’s progress toward quality care at the end of life?

Yes, it would likely contribute to fewer ICU days

Does the item require financial or other outside assistance to be accomplished?

What resources and support systems currently exist to implement this action item?

What additional resources and support systems would be needed to implement this action item?

How long would it take to accomplish the item?

What steps should the Council take in the next three months to move forward on this item? In the next six months?

Which Council members and interested members of the public will volunteer to work on this item?

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE FORMS

Action Item: To draft an improved, easier to use, advance directive form by incorporating promising elements of advance directive forms found in other states

Objective: To increase the use of advance directives by making the forms less technical and more user-friendly

If the action were successful, would it likely affect a quantitative measure of Maryland’s progress toward quality care at the end of life?

Yes, more individuals would fill out advance directive forms

Does the item require financial or other outside assistance to be accomplished?

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What additional resources and support systems would be needed to implement this action item?

How long would it take to accomplish the item?

What steps should the Council take in the next three months to move forward on this item? In the next six months?

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SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Action Item: To develop a model policy or set of procedures for health care organizations to achieve systematic improvement in end-of-life care

Objective: To systematize advance care planning to make health care facilities more accountable and more efficient in providing end-of-life care

If the action were successful, would it likely affect a quantitative measure of Maryland’s progress toward quality care at the end of life?

Yes, a properly conceived model policy would lead to improvements in many areas of end-of-life care (for example, a decrease in the percentage of nursing home residents experiencing moderate or severe pain)

Does the item require financial or other outside assistance to be accomplished?

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What additional resources and support systems would be needed to implement this action item?

How long would it take to accomplish the item?

What steps should the Council take in the next three months to move forward on this item? In the next six months?

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LEGAL BARRIERS TO INTEGRATING PALLIATIVE CARE INTO ONGOING CLINICAL CARE

Action Item: To identify state and federal laws and regulations which limit access to palliative care.

Objective: To ensure that access to palliative care services is a clinical issue, not skewed by legal barriers

If the action were successful, would it likely affect a quantitative measure of Maryland’s progress toward quality care at the end of life?

Yes, greater use of palliative care services, both in facilities and via hospice programs, would be observed

Does the item require financial or other outside assistance to be accomplished?

What resources and support systems currently exist to implement this action item?

What additional resources and support systems would be needed to implement this action item?

How long would it take to accomplish the item?

What steps should the Council take in the next three months to move forward on this item? In the next six months?

Which Council members and interested members of the public will volunteer to work on this item?

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON LIFE-THREATENING DISEASES

Action Item: To educate patients about the illness trajectory of two or three life-threatening diseases

Objective: To encourage patients with life-threatening diseases to engage in advance care planning

If the action were successful, would it likely affect a quantitative measure of Maryland’s progress toward quality care at the end of life?

Yes, to be inferred from data on use of advance directives and hospice use

Does the item require financial or other outside assistance to be accomplished?

What resources and support systems currently exist to implement this action item?

What additional resources and support systems would be needed to implement this action item?

How long would it take to accomplish the item?

What steps should the Council take in the next three months to move forward on this item? In the next six months?

Which Council members and interested members of the public will volunteer to work on this item?

DISSEMINATION OF "5 WISHES

Action Item: To raise money to purchase and distribute the "5 Wishes" advance directive form from Aging with Dignity.

Objective: To increase the use of user-friendly advance directives by distributing this widely praised form

If the action were successful, would it likely affect a quantitative measure of Maryland's progress toward quality care at the end of life?

Yes, to be inferred from data on use of advance directives and possibly survey data

Does the item require financial or other outside assistance to be accomplished?

Four horizontal lines for response.

What resources and support systems currently exist to implement this action item?

Four horizontal lines for response.

What additional resources and support systems would be needed to implement this action item?

Four horizontal lines for response.

How long would it take to accomplish the item?

Four horizontal lines for response.

What steps should the Council take in the next three months to move forward on this item? In the next six months?

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Which Council members and interested members of the public will volunteer to work on this item?

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WORKPLACE INITIATIVES

Action Item: To work with human resource directors to develop a brochure that encourages advance care planning among company employees

Objective: To give patients a starting point to ask questions of their physicians about advance care planning

If the action were successful, would it likely affect a quantitative measure of Maryland’s progress toward quality care at the end of life?

Yes, if survey data showed increased care planning activity in pilot sites, broader impact could be inferred

Does the item require financial or other outside assistance to be accomplished?

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What additional resources and support systems would be needed to implement this action item?

How long would it take to accomplish the item?

What steps should the Council take in the next three months to move forward on this item? In the next six months?

Which Council members and interested members of the public will volunteer to work on this item?
