

To: EMS Community  
From: Sarah M. Sette  
Assistant Attorney General  
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

Date: August 12, 2005

Re: Patient Plan of Care Form

A law passed in 2004 authorized the use of a new "Patient's Plan of Care" (PPOC) form in health care facilities. The Attorney General's Office is responsible for issuing the form and has adopted regulations to govern its use.

**The regulations are effective *October 1, 2005*.** The PPOC form is a standardized way of summarizing and communicating a patient's key preferences regarding end of life care. Attached is a copy of the form.

The use of the PPOC form is not mandatory but the forms will be available to nursing home and other patients. EMS providers may encounter these forms. However, it is important to note that the PPOC form is *not* a physician's order. **It cannot serve as an EMS/DNR Order. There is *no change* in the requirements, protocols, or documentation regarding emergency medical services.**