

Idaho POST Health Care Providers and Emergency Medical Services Personnel FAQs

The following document is intended as a general guide to answer questions concerning the Idaho POST. This document should not be considered legal advice. The citations in italics following each FAQ are from the Idaho Code that pertains to the FAQ.

1. What is a "POST?"

A POST is a Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment. POST is a universal advanced directive. It replaces Idaho Comfort One and supersedes all other DNR orders. (Eff. 7/1/07, Rev. 7/1/12). Although POST supersedes Comfort One, if you're confronted with a Comfort One, it is still valid. *39-4502(8) "Physician orders for scope of treatment (POST) form" means a document which represents a competent person's authentic expression of such person's wishes concerning his or her health care.*

A physician orders for scope of treatment (POST) form is generally recommended in cases where a patient has an incurable or irreversible injury, a chronic, progressive or end-stage disease, illness or condition, or where a patient is in a persistent vegetative state. A post form is also appropriate if such conditions are anticipated.

2. Is there identification jewelry associated with POST like there was with Comfort One/DNR?

DNR is represented by Medical jewelry: bracelet, necklace or anklet. Post jewelry always indicates DNR.

39-4502(15) "Physician orders for scope of treatment (POST) identification device" means standardized jewelry which can be worn around the wrist, neck or ankle, and which has been approved by the department of health and welfare. Such jewelry shall be issued only to persons who have a POST form stating that such person has chosen "Do Not Resuscitate: Allow Natural Death (No Code/DNR/DNAR): No CPR or advanced cardiac life support interventions" or the equivalent choice.

3. Must I comply with the wishes stated on a patient's POST form?

POST must be honored by all health care professionals except when:

(a) You believe in good faith that the POST has been revoked

1. Post form may be revoked at any time by the maker thereof by any of the following methods:

- By being intentionally cancelled, defaced, obliterated or burned, torn otherwise destroyed by the maker thereof, or by some person in his/her presence and by his/her direction;
- By a written, signed revocation of the maker thereof expressing his/her intent to revoke,
- Or by an oral expression by the maker thereof expressing his/her intent to revoke.

(b) To avoid an oral or physical confrontation

(c) If ordered to do so by the attending physician

(d) If neither a POST form or POST DNR jewelry are present

(f) Or the Post form has been suspended by the maker thereof by a written, signed suspension or oral expression by the maker thereof expressing his/her intent to suspend the POST

39-4512B(1) Health care providers and emergency medical services personnel shall comply with a person's physician orders for scope of treatment (POST) instruction when presented with a POST form that meets the requirements of section 39-4512A, Idaho Code, or when a person is wearing a proper POST identification device pursuant to section 39-4512A(5), Idaho Code.

4. Can a patient be required to execute an advance directive?

No, a patient cannot be required to complete a living will, durable power of attorney for health care or POST form as a condition for being insured for, or receiving, health care services.

39-4514(8)(b) (b) No physician, health care facility or other health care provider and no health care service plan, insurer issuing disability insurance, self-insured employee plan, welfare benefit plan or nonprofit hospital service plan shall require any person to execute a living will and durable power of attorney for health care or physician orders for scope of treatment (POST) form, or DNR order as a condition for being insured for, or receiving, health care services.

5. Is a copy of a patient's POST form valid or must they have the original?

Patients may elect to carry originals or copies of the POST form.

39-4514(9)(b) A photostatic, facsimile or electronic copy of a valid physician orders for scope of treatment (POST) form may be treated as an original by a health care provider or by an institution receiving or treating a person.

6. My patient has completed a POST form and has elected to not be resuscitated (DNR). Is a separate DNR order necessary and/or is a POST form that was completed in one facility effective if the patient transfers to another facility?

POST provides a single uniform document that goes with the patient from one care setting to another. POST may travel with the patient. POST is honored in ALL health care facilities. No additional DNR order is needed.

39-4514(8)(a) A physician orders for scope of treatment (POST) form that meets the requirements of section 39-4512A, Idaho Code, shall be transferred with the person to, and be effective in, all care settings including, but not limited to, home care, ambulance or other transport, hospital, residential care facility, and hospice care. The POST form shall remain in effect until such time as there is a valid revocation pursuant to section 39-4511A, Idaho Code, or new orders are issued by a physician, APPN or PA.

Summarized instructions for completing the POST can be found on page 2 of the POST form