

**BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF  
YOUR HEALTH CARE TEAM.**

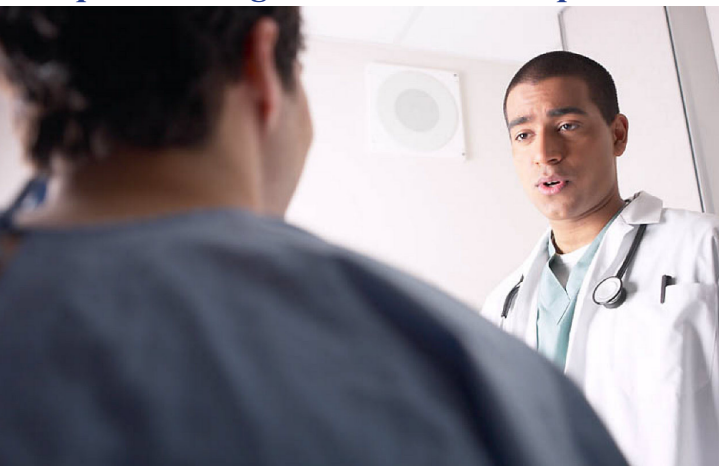
**KNOW YOUR OPTIONS, AND  
CHOOSE YOUR CARE.**

**You have a right to:**

- know about your illness.
- know about programs and services that are available to help you and your family.
- know the benefits and the risks of any alternative treatments available to you.
- make an Advance Directive to plan for the future.
- choose someone to help you make medical decisions.
- have your provider complete a Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) order form.

*For more information visit*

*<http://www.oag.state.md.us/healthpol/sac/>*



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## **Do I have the right to know about my illness?**

Yes. You have a right to know about your illness, available treatments, whether treatments might cure your illness or treat your symptoms, and what the impact might be on life expectancy and quality of life. You also have a right to know about end of life options, including hospice care.

## **Do I have the right to choose the best treatment option for me?**

Yes. Your health care provider should review the options that are available in order to help you choose which is best for you. You have the right to have someone help you make decisions. You also have the right to decline treatment.

## **What is an Advance Directive and what is MOLST?**

An advance directive is a legal document that you should complete now to plan for your future health care. No one is required to have an advance directive, but it is smart to plan ahead and inform your loved ones of your wishes in case you ever become too ill to speak for yourself. It will ensure that your religious and personal beliefs will be respected. MOLST (Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) is a form containing medical orders signed by your health care provider that will help ensure that your wishes are carried out.

## **What if I change my mind?**

You can change your mind about health care options at any time.

## **What kinds of treatments are available to me when I am sick or dying?**

There are many different kinds of care that can help you during your treatment. Doctors, nurses, specialized palliative medical providers, social workers, chaplains, dietitians, pharmacists, massage therapists, or acupuncturists can all help to relieve symptoms. Ask your health care provider which services are available and which will be paid for by insurance. Hospice organizations most often coordinate the providers.

## **What if I have pain or other symptoms?**

You have a right to relief from pain and other symptoms. Talk to your health care provider if you suffer from pain, other symptoms, or side effects from your treatments.

## **What if I have a disability?**

You have a right to receive the kind of care that you need. There should be reasonable accommodations made for you to get to your health care provider and get the information and care you need.