TPOPP
Transportable Physician Orders for Patient Preferences
Making Your Healthcare Wishes Known
Caring Conversations®...continued

This small booklet is titled Caring Conversations...Continued for a particular reason. You may be familiar with the Caring Conversations® workbook that has helped many people over the last two decades think about how to make their healthcare wishes known. The Caring Conversations® workbook guides you, your family and friends through the process of Advance Care Planning.

Even if you have thought about your healthcare wishes, talked to your family and friends and completed a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare Decisions, circumstances change. There are specific decisions that may become critically important if you live with an advanced chronic illness or have been told that you have a limited life expectancy.

Your Caring Conversation needs to be continued with both your medical providers and your loved ones to ensure that you fully understand your medical condition and receive the treatment you desire. The continuation of the conversation becomes more important as your health status declines or if you visit the hospital more frequently, live in a long-term care facility or you are transported by emergency medical services between care facilities.

You will find two forms in this booklet. One is a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare Decisions (in case you don’t have one) and a bright pink form that is titled “Kansas-Missouri Transportable Physician Order for Patient Preferences (TPOPP).”

The pink TPOPP form helps you, your loved ones and your doctor continue the conversation about your healthcare wishes if you become frail or believe you have a limited amount of time to live. This “caring conversation continued” may, if you want it to, result in a medical order signed by your physician that will travel with you between healthcare settings so that no matter where you are taken care of, your wishes will be known and respected.

Please continue to read through the entire booklet and you will find basic information about Transportable Physician Orders for Patient Preferences (TPOPP) and answers to the following:

- What is TPOPP?
- What is a TPOPP Talk?
- What is a TPOPP Form?
- How do I keep track of my TPOPP Form?
- What should I do if I want to start a TPOPP Talk?
What is TPOPP?

TPOPP stands for “Transportable Physician Orders for Patient Preferences” and starts with a talk among you, your family members or loved ones if possible and your healthcare team.

Completing the TPOPP Form is your choice; it is voluntary.

If you want to complete a TPOPP form, the talk you have with your healthcare team members about CPR, treatment goals and medically administered nutrition is written on a TPOPP form which is a bright pink piece of paper and signed by you (or your recognized decision maker if you are not able) and also signed by a physician.

What is a TPOPP Talk?

TPOPP talks are about the type of care you desire in the case of an acute health decline or if you are frail or if there is a possibility that you have less than a year to live.

A TPOPP talk can be with a member of your healthcare team such as a physician, nurse, social worker or chaplain. You or a family member might begin the conversation or one of your healthcare team might begin the conversation.

The TPOPP talk is an opportunity to consider information about your current medical condition and what it means to you as you think about your treatment options.

What is a TPOPP Form?

The TPOPP form is a bright pink piece of paper that helps doctors, nurses, and emergency medical workers honor your wishes for care. An example TPOPP form is included in this booklet to help you learn about TPOPP.

On the front of the TPOPP form there are spaces for your information such as your name, date of birth, etc. It’s important to complete all the information so members of your healthcare team know that this TPOPP form is uniquely about you.

The TPOPP forms has areas for information about your wishes for:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR);
- The level of medical intervention you want given your current health status;
- If you would want to have nutrition medically administered to you if you could not take food by mouth.
The form requires that you sign it or, if you are not able, a recognized decision maker may sign for you. This signature acknowledges that there was a conversation with the members of your healthcare team including a physician and that the treatment options are what you desire.

The TPOPP form requires the signature of a licensed physician to become a medical order. By signing the form the physician acknowledges that there was a conversation that included you (or a recognized decision maker if you are not able) about the treatment options that have been checked. The physician signature also acknowledges that the orders on the form are the treatment you desire.

On the back of the TPOPP form is a place for healthcare providers who were part of the discussion with you and your family members to enter their information.

There is also a place on the back of the form to provide information about any advance directives you may have in place or if you have signed a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare document.

For more information about TPOPP go to www.practicalbioethics.org, call the Center for Practical Bioethics at 816-221-1100 or send an e-mail to TPOPP@practicalbioethics.org.

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The toughest conversations...are sometimes the most important---

Healthcare Providers: TPOPP forms can be ordered on the Internet at www.practicalbioethics.org. Click on the TPOPP icon on the Home Page to access TPOPP information and resources.
Vision
Ethical discourse and action advance the health and dignity of all persons.

Mission
To raise and respond to ethical issues in health and healthcare.

Our Core Value
Respect for human dignity.

We believe that all persons have intrinsic worth.

We promote and protect the interests of those who can and cannot speak for themselves.

We commit to the just delivery of healthcare

We welcome your interest in both Caring Conversations® and Transportable Physician Orders for Patient Preferences (TPOPP). For more information about the Center for Practical Bioethics, please contact us at 816-221-1100, visit our website www.PracticalBioethics.org, or e-mail us a bioethic@PracticalBioethics.org.