

# POLST

*physician orders for life-sustaining treatment paradigm*

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear POLST friends,

This newsletter is part of the National POLST Paradigm Task Force's effort to build a more cohesive national POLST program. Periodically we will provide this newsletter, which will contain a quick overview of POLST news and items of interest to all POLST programs, including new research or resources. As you have hopefully seen, we also recently unveiled our new National POLST website ([www.polst.org](http://www.polst.org)); this website is designed to be a central repository for POLST news, information, educational materials and resources for patients, families, health care professionals **and you!**



I am hopeful that these resources, in addition to our POLST Twitter account and POLST Facebook page, will help more people understand the POLST Paradigm, as well as see all the great progress states have made. If you have comments or suggestions for any of these, or something else you think would be useful, please let me know.

I look forward to working with you to further develop the POLST Paradigm!

Amy Vandenbroucke, JD  
Executive Director

## News

### Advance Care Planning PSA Series

Compassion and Support, home to New York's MOLST program, recently created a series of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to emphasize the need for advance care planning. The series, which features the perspectives of both providers and patients, reminds us of the importance

## FEATURED NEWS

### End-of-Life Care Challenge

The **California HealthCare Foundation** is hosting a challenge to develop creative ways to catalyze end-of-life discussions. There is a \$5,000 prize for the best overall solution, and \$2,500 prizes for the best solutions related to advance directives and POLST. The submissions must focus on getting more people to express their wishes using current advance care planning documents.

So put on your thinking caps and help to spread POLST and advance care planning. The competition closes May 10th, so

of making our wishes known now.

[Click here](#) to view the video and share it with others

## Connecticut MOLST Bill Considered in Legislature

In March, the Connecticut General Assembly held a public hearing on creating a MOLST Pilot Project. Since then, the Public Health Committee has reported the bill for consideration by the Connecticut House. [Read More](#)

## Oregon POLST Registry Accessed Out-of-State

Recently, an Oregon man was traveling in Wyoming when he required emergency medical assistance. His providers were able to access his POLST by calling the Oregon POLST Registry. [Read More](#)

[click here](#) now to learn more about the challenge and how to submit.

## FEATURED RESOURCE

### Quality and Research Toolkit

The POLST Quality and Research Toolkit (PQRsT) was compiled by Dr. Erik Fromme to facilitate the study and improvement of POLST Paradigm Programs. Thanks to the generosity of many POLST leaders, Dr. Fromme was able to gather research and quality resources from POLST programs across the country. In addition, he conducted a literature review and created a user guide. All of the resources are available for download, so [click here](#) to get started on your research and quality improvement projects!

## FEATURED RESEARCH

### POLST in Nursing Homes

A recent article in the Journal of General Internal Medicine explored the implementation of POLST in California nursing homes. The authors found that nursing homes in areas with community POLST coalitions were significantly more likely to have utilized POLST with a patient. The findings suggest that community coalitions can play an important role in the implementation of POLST programs. To access the full article, click the citation below:

**Wenger, NS et al. (2013). "Implementation of Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment in Nursing Homes in California: Evaluation of a Novel Statewide Dissemination Mechanism." Journal of General Internal Medicine 28(1):51-57.**

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Honoring the wishes of those with advanced illness and frailty

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