

POLST

physician orders for life-sustaining treatment paradigm

In This Issue:

FEATURED NEWS
FEATURED RESOURCE
FEATURED RESEARCH
NEWS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear POLST friends,

Summer is fully upon us and, with it, we see the growing reach of the POLST Paradigm. In early June, NPPTF Treasurer Susan Tolle presented on POLST to the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Transforming End of Life Care (you can find information about her presentation [here](#)). Last week, I testified before the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, explaining the POLST Paradigm Program. These invitations and presentations show the growing respect for the POLST Paradigm.



Yet, with this growing attention comes controversy. There have recently been a number of reports and articles that have misrepresented the POLST Paradigm. The NPPTF is working hard to make clear information available to combat this misinformation, including our statement **POLST: What It Is and What it Is Not**. However, these statements are not enough. I encourage all of you to share your knowledge of POLST, especially when you hear it misrepresented. Post to social media, write letters to your newspaper, and talk to people you know. Help others understand that POLST is about something we can all agree upon: ensuring that the wishes of those with advanced illness and frailty are honored.

Best wishes,

Amy Vandenbroucke, JD
Executive Director

News

Nevada Passes POLST Legislation

On June 6th, Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval signed POLST legislation into law. The legislation passed the state Senate unanimously and passed the state Assembly with no Nay votes.

FEATURED NEWS

POLST at the U.S. Senate

Amy Vandenbroucke presented POLST at the "Renewing the Conversation: Respecting Patients Wishes and Advance Care Planning" Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing. She provided five minutes of oral testimony and provided a more in-depth written testimony. This was a great opportunity for POLST; by participating, POLST gained a new level of credibility and has started to build a good public record through both testimonies. Ken

The law is set to take effect on October 1st, 2013.

Watch the Social Media Webinar Recording

If you missed the June 18th webinar on social media, you're in luck. The webinar recording is available online, so you can still learn about the importance of social media and how to get started with Twitter and Facebook.

[Click here](#) to watch the webinar.

Get Out Your Calendar

Make sure you clear your calendar for the 2014 [National POLST Leadership Conference](#). It will be held February 13-14, 2014 at the Hyatt Place Atlanta Airport-South Hotel.

Conference information was sent to state contacts and additional information will follow later this year. If there are any questions, please contact the POLST National Office at polst@ohsu.edu.

Brummel-Smith, MD, who is involved with Florida's POLST Program, is a 2012-2013 Health and Aging Policy Fellow working with the Committee on Aging and was in attendance, as was Charlie Sabatino, JD and other POLST advocates.

To watch the hearing, [click here](#). Amy Vandenbroucke's testimony begins at 53:00.

To read the Amy Vandenbroucke's written testimony, [click here](#).

FEATURED RESOURCE

POLST Stories Submission Page

National POLST has created a webpage for patients and their families to share their experiences with POLST Paradigm programs. The page, titled [What Was Your POLST Experience](#), allows people to share their story with the NPPTF. These stories are crucial for understanding the experience of those using POLST, the ways that the patient experience can be improved, and for discovering new ways to communicate the benefits of POLST. People who submit their stories can allow the NPPTF to use the stories to raise awareness of POLST or they can elect to keep their experience confidential.

We encourage you to direct patients and families who wish to share their stories to the submission form. After all, the people who can most powerfully communicate the value of POLST are the individuals and families who have had their wishes honored.

To access the submission form, [click here](#).

FEATURED RESEARCH

When are MOLSTs Completed?

A recent article in the journal Palliative and Supportive Care reported the results of a study on the completion and efficacy of the New York MOLST form in two long-term care facilities. The authors evaluated the length of time after admission until the MOLST was signed, the length of time between the completion of the MOLST and death, and the frequency that wishes documented in a MOLST were honored.

They found that the median time until a MOLST was completed was 48 days after admission. However, 37% of MOLST forms were signed within 7 days of admission. Most residents lived well after their MOLST was signed. Twelve percent died within a week and 22% died within 30 days. Most importantly, of the patients who died with a completed MOLST, 87% had their wishes honored. Based on this study, the authors conclude that MOLST is an effective tool for establishing goals of care in long-term care contexts.

To access the full article, click the citation below:

Araw, AC et al. (2013). "Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment: Is It Time Yet?" Palliative and Supportive Care. Accessed online on 24 June 2013.

Honoring the wishes of those with advanced illness and frailty

STAY CONNECTED



SUPPORTED BY THE

THE
RETIREMENT
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION
SUPPORTING IDEAS & INNOVATIONS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS