

June 9, 2014



physician orders for life-sustaining treatment paradigm

Landmark Study on POLST Published Today

Dear Friends,

Today, the **Journal of the American Geriatrics Society (JAGS)** has published an **important study** demonstrating the value of the POLST Paradigm for patients with serious illness or frailty. The study documents the relationship between the orders selected on a POLST Form and the location where people actually die.



The research reveals that patients who have POLST Forms indicating *Comfort Measures Only* or *Limited Additional Interventions* are less likely to die in hospitals than individuals without a POLST Form. Further, patients who have POLST Forms indicating *Full Treatment* are more likely to die in hospitals than individuals with no POLST Form at all. These results show that POLST works for both patients who seek to avoid certain treatments and for patients who seek every possible intervention.

I encourage you to share the news of this study to help raise awareness for the promise of POLST in your states. I hope to see media in your regions pick up this story, and for it to be shared on social media. The National POLST Office has issued a **press release** and created a **webpage** to highlight the publication. In addition, Oregon Health and Science University (where the study was conducted) has also issued a **press release**. Please use these resources to spread the word, and follow us on **Twitter** and **Facebook** for ongoing updates.

We should all be excited this manuscript confirms that POLST helps ensure that the wishes of those with serious illness or frailty are honored. And, thanks to your hard work, I am confident that we will continue to build on this accomplishment in the future.

Best wishes,

Amy Vandenbroucke, JD

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Honoring the wishes of those with serious
illness and frailty

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