



*physician orders for life-sustaining treatment paradigm*

April 16, 2015

Dear Friends,

Today is **National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD)** - a day that was created "to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning." This is the perfect time to raise awareness of the importance of POLST in advance care planning!

## What are you or your POLST Program doing today?

I am excited to see that a number of POLST Programs have planned events today to recognize NHDD, encourage advance care planning, and to emphasize the significance of the POLST Paradigm.

- **California's POLST Program**, coordinated by the Center for Compassionate Care of California, is **celebrating that April 16th has been named Healthcare Decisions Day in California** through Senate Resolution 17. Importantly, the Resolution encourages seriously ill patients to learn about the POLST Program!
- **Colorado's MOST Program** will be releasing its **new MOST Form** today! More details to come in our next e-newsletter!
- Connecticut's MOLST Program will be holding its **MOLST Pilot Kickoff** event at the Connecticut Capitol to coincide with NHDD. This event will celebrate the development of the CT MOLST Program and advance care planning in general.
- Florida State University's Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine and Law, which coordinates **Florida's POLST Program**, will be co-sponsoring a **showing and discussion of the Frontline documentary Being Mortal**.
- Louisiana's LaPOST will be hosting an NHDD-themed twitter chat today at 12 pm CST. Follow **@LouisianaPOLST** and **#NHDDchat** to participate in the conversation about advance care planning and LaPOST. The featured guest will be LaPOST Coalition Chair Susan Nelson, MD! Dr. Nelson has also filmed a **special video message** for NHDD.
- Compassion and Support, which administers **New York's MOLST Program**, has **NHDD resources and events listed on its website**. Take a minute to see what they have!
- The West Virginia Center for End-of-Life Care, which administers **West Virginia's POST Program**, has sent out a **special e-newsletter** encouraging West Virginians to have the conversation, assign a medical decision-maker, and complete an advance directive.

There is still time for you to do something! Consider:

- Visiting **NHDD's resources page** to see the organizations and tools they have highlighted.

- Sharing the Institute of Medicine's PSA **It's Time to Have the Conversation**.
- If you're on Twitter, be sure to tweet with **#POLST**, **#NHDD**, and **@NationalPOLST!**

Most important of all, use this day to share your wishes and to listen to the wishes of your loved ones.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Vandenbroucke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Amy Vandenbroucke, JD  
Executive Director

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