



Thank You and Happy New Year!

Dear Friends,

As the New Year begins, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all of you for your support of the National POLST Paradigm. Our progress is not possible without **you!**

We had a great 2015! So many states made progress in advancing their POLST Paradigm Programs:

- [Iowa IPOST](#) and [Maine POLST](#) Programs were endorsed by the National POLST Paradigm Task Force, and **Mississippi** achieved developing status.
- **Oregon** [launched its ePOLST program](#) and **California** [passed legislation establishing a pilot ePOLST Registry](#).
- [California EMSA officially declared support of the new POLST 2016 Form](#), similar to how in **Kansas** the [KBEMS formally supported TPOPP](#) in December 2014.
- **Connecticut** [launched a pilot MOLST program](#) in April 2015, to last one year.

There was also legislative activity supporting POLST Paradigm Programs:

- **Illinois** was successful in the [renaming of the former POLST/DNR Form as the Illinois POLST Form](#).
- **California** [passed legislation authorizing Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners \(in addition to physicians\) as POLST Form signers](#).
- In **Kentucky**, [MOST was signed into legislation](#), and the [Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure](#) standardized the MOST Form as well as issued formal guidance on MOST.
- **Wyoming** passed legislation implementing [WyoPOLST Program](#).
- **Georgia** had [POLST Legislation signed into law](#).
- In **Delaware**, [DMOST was signed into legislation](#).
- In **Washington D.C.**, [MOST was introduced](#) as part of the Health Care Decisions Act of 2015, for which the [D.C. Council gave final approval in December](#) (final approval pending Congress).

And we had a number of new resources created that will support all POLST Paradigm Programs, including:

- [National POLST Paradigm Development Guide](#)
- [Distinguishing POLST from Death with Dignity Statutes](#)
- Webinar: [EMS' Vital Role with POLST](#) Angela Fera
- Webinar: [The Role of POLST in the Care of People with Dementia](#) Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D.
- Webinar: [OHSU's ePOLST Experience](#)
- [POLST: Doing it Better Video](#)
- [Oregon's Spanish POLST Video](#)

The past year wouldn't have been the same without your vocal support of many issues, foremost of which was the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) decision to approve reimbursement for advance care planning conversations](#). Not only was this a historic step in itself, but advance care planning and POLST received substantial positive publicity as a result. POLST and end-of-life care planning were featured in [TIME Magazine](#), [New York Times](#), [National Public Radio](#), [Washington Post](#) and [Boston Globe](#). Publications from 2014 also continued to help bring attention to end-of-life care, such as the [Institute of Medicine \(IOM\) Report Dying in America](#) and [Atul's Gawande's book Being Mortal](#), upon which the 2015 [PBS documentary Being Mortal](#) was based.

Looking ahead to 2016, I'm excited for new beginnings. Medicare will start reimbursing advance care planning conversations; this is a vital opportunity to elicit and document patient treatment wishes through thoughtful conversation and shared decision making. Let's help the cause by spreading the word about how well-considered end-of-life care planning benefits patients and their loved ones. Please "like" us, follow us, and share our posts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#). If everyone understood POLST, everyone would benefit. Help make this happen.

Please continue to let us know about other news - what is going on in your region? Let us know of stories about patients, and how facilities in your state are faring with respect to POLST implementation. We'd love to hear from you about all things [#POLST](#). Better yet, join us for the [2016 National POLST Paradigm Conference \(#POLST16\)](#). This is a chance to meet your colleagues from across the nation, to share ideas, work together, get questions answered. We would love to hear your questions and comments in person! In the meantime, always feel free to [contact us](#).

Many thanks for a great 2015, and here's to an even better 2016!



Amy Vandembroucke, J.D.
Executive Director, National POLST Paradigm



National POLST Paradigm · www.polst.org · (503) 494-4463



