

# National POLST Paradigm

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**Dear Friends,**

I am sorry to report some sad news: cherished friend and POLST advocate, Bob Wolf died this past weekend. Robert B. Wolf practiced as an attorney for 45 years, with great dedication to end-of-life legal planning. [His resume](#) includes his being one of the *Best Lawyers in America* for Trusts and Estates since 1993, and *2010 Lawyer of the Year in Estate Planning* by Best Lawyers in America, among many other accomplishments. [Obituary of Bob Wolf](#).



**Bob Wolf (1946-2016)**

Speaking of special remembrances, November is a month in which three major causes are honored:

**National Family Caregivers Month.** President Bill Clinton first proclaimed November as National Family Caregivers Month in 1997. *Take Care to Give Care* is the theme for National Family Caregivers Month this year. [Read more.](#)

**National Hospice and Palliative Care Month.** *Know Your Options!* is the theme for Hospice and Palliative Care Month this year, as declared by the National Hospital and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) The NHPCO also is giving away free graphics (including high-resolution poster-sized files), press release templates and other outreach materials in order to help you to publicize this cause. [Read more.](#)

**National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month.** President Ronald Reagan designated November as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month in 1983. "At the time, fewer than 2 million Americans had Alzheimer's; today, the number of people with the disease has soared to nearly 5.4 million" [Read more.](#) [Visit the Alzheimer's Association website.](#)

Check out our *News in Brief* (below), for some more items relating to each cause. May you enjoy this season with special time for reflection, home, and family.

Take care,



## Amy Vandenbroucke, JD

Executive Director, National POLST Paradigm

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### Featured News: POLST Paradigm highlighted by The Pew Charitable Trusts



**Wife describes how honoring her husband's wishes allowed him to die at peace.**

Tyra and Betty Lou were childhood sweethearts married for 74 years, before he passed away at age 94 in August 2016. By ensuring that Tyra's end-of-life wishes were honored, the POLST Paradigm gave both of them peace of mind at the end of Tyra's life. [Read the full story](#) as captured by [The Pew Charitable Trusts Improving End-of-Life Care Project](#). (Thank you, Susan Tolle, for assisting with this project!)

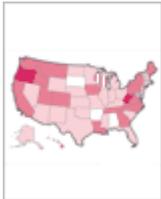
### Special Report: Journal of Palliative Medicine: Advance Care Planning Codes



**10 Tips for Using Advance Care Planning Codes in Palliative Medicine and Beyond.**

For the first time, healthcare is experiencing a dramatic shift in billing codes that support increased care management and care coordination. ACP, chronic care management, and transitional care management codes are examples of this newer recognition of the value of these types of services. The importance of documentation, proper billing, and nuances regarding coding is addressed. [View on PubMed](#). [Download Full Free PDF \(58 KB\)](#).

### Featured Resource: Our Map is more than a map



**The National POLST Paradigm Programs Map Page**

This updated web page is not only more attractive and easier to navigate, but has much more information than the previous rendition of the "POLST Map." Legislation relevant to POLST Paradigm Programs in each state is provided, along with contact information and other data. Most importantly, this page is continually updated as we receive new information regarding any state program. [View web page](#).

### Featured Research: Nurse Practitioners as POLST signers



**Research published; Video provides background and importance of research.**

In a recent *Journal of Palliative Medicine* article by Sophia Hayes et al., Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) were found to comprise 11% of POLST signers in the Oregon POLST Registry. [View article online](#). Also, don't miss the [4-minute accompanying POLST video](#), featuring lead author Ms. Hayes and Susan Tolle, MD, which explains the background and significance of this specific research.

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## National POLST Paradigm News in Brief

**Judy Black joins Jewish Healthcare Foundation as medical advisor for POLST.** Both nationally and statewide in Pennsylvania, Judith Black, MD, MHA, has been a leader in palliative care, end-of-life conversations, and POLST. In her new positions, she will also oversee JHF-approved POLST trainings for healthcare providers. Congratulations, Judy! [See full story in JHF newsletter \(p 18 of PDF\)](#). [Learn more about the Jewish Healthcare Foundation](#).

**In honor of National Alzheimer's Awareness Month**, which is November, we would like to remind you of a special webinar, *The Role of POLST in the Care of People with Dementia*, presented by Kenneth Brummel-Smith, MD, in 2015. [View webinar on YouTube](#). [View list of all POLST Webinars](#).

**In honor of Hospice and Palliative Care Month**, which is also November, we invite you to [watch the trailer for the non-fiction book \*When Breath Becomes Air\*](#), by Paul Kalanithi. [Read the New York Times Book Review](#).

In honor of **National Family Caregivers Month**, which, again, is also November, we wish to draw your attention to the recently released report, [Families Caring for an Aging America](#), published by [The Health and Medicine Division \(HMD\) of The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#).

**Congratulations to Pat Bomba!** The American College of Physicians (ACP) Board of Regents recently voted to elect Patricia Bomba, MD, FACP, to Mastership. Dr. Bomba also received the Immaculata University Alumni Association 2016 Amethyst Award at its annual gala in October. [Read more](#). Subscribe to New York MOLST updates by emailing [Meg.Greco@Excellus.com](mailto:Meg.Greco@Excellus.com).



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