

National POLST Paradigm Conflict of Interest Policy

Guiding Principle: The National POLST Paradigm may accept gifts, enter into partnerships, and accept support from any entity committed to the Paradigm’s missionⁱ, visionⁱⁱ and essential valuesⁱⁱⁱ and the core programmatic objectives articulated in the Paradigm’s strategic framework. The National POLST Paradigm will not enter into any engagement that compromises its integrity, violates any federal, state or local law, is financially unsound, could expose the National POLST Paradigm to unacceptable liability or other adverse consequences, or is contrary to the goals of the National POLST Paradigm.

Definitions:

- “Engagement” includes grants, contracts and other transactions that provide for mutual legal obligations and acceptance of donations, including money, property, in-kind contributions and all other kinds of support. Engagement also includes strategic partnerships, sponsor recognition, joint messaging, product certification or endorsement, and cause marketing. Engagement does not include routine commercial transactions with vendors or the sale of goods in the open market. If there are doubts about whether a relationship would be covered by this policy, the question should be referred to the Governing Board Chair and the Executive Director at the earliest possible opportunity.
- “Entity” means an individual, a corporation, a business trust, a trust, a partnership, an association, a government, a governmental subdivision or agency or any other legal entity.

Review of engagement opportunities: The Governing Board is responsible for approving all engagement opportunities. The Governing Board may authorize in advance some categories of engagement but will otherwise approve all other engagement opportunities on a case-by-case basis; the Governing Board may establish a committee to review and approve engagement opportunities on the full Governing Board’s behalf.

The Governing Board Chair and Executive Director will (i) review all engagement opportunities using the assessment below before submitting engagement opportunities to the Governing Board for approval and (ii) for those engagements approved by the Governing Board, continually evaluate ongoing engagements and report periodically on them to the Governing Board.

Employees and other persons acting on behalf of the National POLST Paradigm are expected to inform the Governing Board Chair and the Executive Director before initiating or responding to an engagement opportunity to provide full and complete information so that the engagement opportunity can be properly assessed.

Assessment of engagement opportunities: The following factors will guide the review of engagements:

- The nature of the engagement, including fiscal and programmatic control, level of investment, reasonability of conditions or restrictions, and any unusual financial or legal risks.
- The extent to which the engagement is likely to support and advance the Guiding Principle stated above, provide support for important programs and, if applicable, lead to a significant, productive relationship.
- The extent to which the engagement is likely to affect the independence, reputation, or integrity of the entire National POLST Paradigm and the availability of methods to reduce the risk of any adverse impact.

ⁱ Mission: Advance the POLST Paradigm through stewardship, education, advocacy, support for state efforts, and national leadership.

ⁱⁱ Vision: Our vision is to have all states adopt the POLST Paradigm, resulting in a consistency of process, improved patient care and greater patient control and direction over medical treatment.

ⁱⁱⁱ Values: <http://polst.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2017.02.10-POLST-Public-Policy-Principles.pdf>