

Mature POLST Paradigm States: 3 (aka “Mature States”)

- Must be endorsed to have mature status
- California, Oregon, West Virginia

Mature status is the highest level of endorsement by the NPPTF and is reserved solely for states with statewide POLST Paradigm Programs that, among other requirements (see Application for Mature Program Status) are the standard preferred method of advance care planning for persons with advanced illness or frailty. Mature POLST Paradigm Programs are used by 50% or more of hospitals, nursing homes or nursing home resident population, and hospices in each region (as defined by established criteria such as EMS, Department of Health, or the Dartmouth Atlas) of the state. These programs are actively gathering data for quality assurance programs and have considered centralized POLST databases.

Endorsed POLST Paradigm States: 23 (mature states are also endorsed)

- California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin (La Crosse Region only)

The NPPTF will endorse state POLST Paradigm Programs when they have developed and implemented a POLST Paradigm Program and form meeting the NPPTF standards (see Application for Endorsed Program Status). Endorsed programs are POLST Paradigm Programs that have become standard components of advance care planning in their location. These programs have addressed legal and regulatory issues associated with POLST, and have developed strategies for ongoing implementation and quality assurance.

Developing POLST Paradigm States: 23

- Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Wyoming

Programs are recognized by the NPPTF as “developing” when they have both: (1) submitted the Application for Developing Program Status and (2) presented the state’s POLST Form and Program to the NPPTF’s Developing State Assistance Committee (DSAC). Developing POLST Paradigm Programs may be at various stages of development, ranging from the initial design of a POLST Paradigm Form to active usage of POLST Paradigm Forms, but are working towards the goal of implementing the POLST Paradigm Program statewide. In general, programs at this step are starting to contemplate addressing all [Seven Core Elements of Sustainability](#).

States Not Conforming to POLST Paradigm Requirements: 3

- Maryland: Legislation that went into effect in 2013 mandates the completion of POLST Forms for certain patients. Their program violates the POLST Paradigm’s tenet that completion of a POLST is always voluntary.
- Massachusetts: The current form does not include the “limited intervention” section that is the heart of POLST and where data documents the highest level of effectiveness but, instead, has a variety of questions. This lack of structure in the form causes confusion, lacks clarity, likely reduces effectiveness in honoring patient wishes and creates potential reciprocity issues. Reciprocity concerns are especially problematic since the POLST Paradigm promotes portable medical orders that help ensure patient treatment wishes are followed, regardless of where they are during a medical crisis.



- Vermont: The current form is cumbersome and unclear, which potentially causes confusion and likely reduces effectiveness in honoring patient wishes. The form lacks the structure of the majority of other POLST Paradigm programs, which increases the likelihood that the COLST will not be honored outside Vermont; this is especially problematic since the POLST Paradigm promotes portable medical orders that help ensure patient treatment wishes are followed, regardless of where they are during a medical crisis.

There are some states that have developed POLST-like programs that, either from how the program was implemented, the development of the form, or for legislative reasons, will not be endorsed by NPPTF in their current form.

Contact (not yet Developing): 2

- District of Columbia, South Dakota

When states are exploring the development of a regional or statewide POLST Paradigm Program they can formally connect with the NPPTF. This level is for states not yet ready to complete the Developing POLST Paradigm Application but who would like to participate in the National POLST Paradigm (e.g., receive emails from the national office, attend various education sessions put on by the National Office or the NPPTF, etc.).