

National POLST Paradigm

Forum Topic of the Month

[Good potential source of funding: Civil Money Penalty funds](#)



About the Forum: The National POLST Forum is a great way to discuss any POLST topic anytime with colleagues locally or across the nation. It is a closed online discussion board for POLST advocates and health care professionals participating in their state POLST Program (it is **not** a patient or caregiver forum). To request access, please email us at info@polst.org, giving us your full name, title/organization and state in which you practice.

Featured News



National POLST Paradigm Research Committee, renamed, appoints new chair.

The National POLST Paradigm *Research Committee* has a new chair and is being renamed the *Research and Quality Assurance Committee (RQAC)*, in order to emphasize its focus on quality assurance and quality indicators of the POLST Paradigm as an effective tool in ensuring that patient end-of-life treatment wishes are honored. [Susan Hickman, PhD](#), who has authored many POLST research papers and continues to pioneer improvements in the care of the seriously ill and frail (see Featured Research, below), accepted the new role as RQAC Chair, and as such, she also is welcomed as our newest member of the National POLST Executive Committee. Welcome and thank you, Dr. Hickman!

Featured Resource



WEBINAR: Civil Money Penalty funds: a good potential source of POLST funding.

On November 9, 2017, the National POLST Paradigm will host a free webinar presented by Richard Cohen, MD, Judy Eads, RN, and Susan Nelson, MD, at 2 pm ET / 1 CT / 12 MT / 11 PT / 9 am HT. The presenters have experience with Civil Money Penalty (CMP) funds and would like to share and discuss: (1) How the funds can help support POLST Programs, (2) How to find information on applying for CMP funds, (3) Lessons learned in the application process, and (4) Feedback on the general experience of applying for and using the funds. [Register now.](#)

Featured Research



Research study: POLST most effective and helpful tool in nursing home care.

A research paper, "Stakeholder Perspectives on the Optimizing Patient Transfers, Impacting Medical Quality, and Improving Symptoms: Transforming Institutional Care (OPTIMISTIC) Project" was published in *The Gerontologist*, authored by Mary Ersek, PhD, RN, Susan E. Hickman, PhD, Anne C. Thomas, PhD, ANP-BC, GNP, FAANP, Brittany Bernard, BS, and Kathleen T. Unroe, MD, MHA. The study was aimed at improving care for nursing home patients via the implementation of a multicomponent collaborative care model, which included advance care planning and specifically the use of POLST (in this study called POST, or Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment, since the study took place in Indiana). A key result was that POST was the tool most frequently cited as effective by the stakeholders, a view upheld by RNs, providers, families, and facility staff. [Read more.](#) [View article \(limited access\).](#)

Featured Research

Colorado MOST study reveals high quality POLST use in heart failure patients.



“Use of Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment for Heart Failure Patients During Postacute Care in Skilled Nursing Facilities,” by Hillary Lum, MD, PhD, Oluyomi Obafemi MD, Joanna Dukes MS, Molly Nowels MA, Kristina Samon BSN, and Rebecca S. Boxer MD, MS, was published in *JAMDA (Journal of the American Medical Directors Association - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine)*.

Similar to recent POLST research in [West Virginia](#) and [Oregon](#), this study in Colorado found that POLST (there called MOST, or Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment) is used appropriately and effectively, in this case within a study population of heart failure patients admitted to Colorado skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). Conclusion: 75% percent of patients with heart failure admitted to SNFs had care preferences documented using the MOST form, and 95% received goal-concordant care based on care preferences documented during the SNF admission. [Read more](#). [View article \(limited access\)](#).

National POLST Paradigm News in Brief

Register for Webinar: Insights into the West Virginia Registry. On December 7, 2017, the National POLST Paradigm will host a webinar by Alvin (“Woody”) Moss, MD, Evan Falkenstine, and Courtney Dunithan, MSW, LGSW, who will discuss what they’ve learned from analyzing data from the eDirective Registry associated with the West Virginia POLST Paradigm Program, known as POST (Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment). [Register now](#).

Watch the California POLST eRegistry pilot project webinar: In case you missed it, now available online as a recording is the November 2, 2017 webinar from the [Coalition for Compassionate Care of California](#). This was an overview and update on the California POLST eRegistry project, presented by Kelley Queale, Judy Thomas, Kate Meyers, Howard Backer, and others. [View webinar/slides \(free, enrollment required\)](#).

Physician Assistants can now sign West Virginia POLST Forms. West Virginia's POLST Paradigm Program, called POST (Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment) now includes physician assistants as POST Form signers, effective September 9, 2017. With this measure, signatory authority is now granted to all doctors (MDs), osteopathic physicians (DOs), Advanced Nurse Practitioners (APRNs), and Physician Assistants (PAs) in West Virginia. The [WV Center for End-of-Life Care](#) has updated their POST Forms to reflect this change in [legislation](#).

Looking for a new role? CCCC is seeking a Program Director. Are you passionate about palliative care and want to support the movement to make palliative care a normal part of health care for everyone who is seriously ill? Do you love project management? The Sacramento-based Coalition for Compassionate Care of California (CCCC) is looking for a dynamic individual who is passionate about palliative care and skilled in project management to join their team. [Learn more](#).

POLITICO published a new special report, *The Agenda: Aging in America*, a comprehensive “deep dive into the biggest barriers to improving the care of older adults, from transportation challenges to the stress experienced by family caregivers to regulatory red tape hindering hospice,” presented by The John A. Hartford Foundation. [View *The Agenda: Aging in America*](#). The report coincided with [a POLITICO Live event](#) featuring experts discussing how to make the health care delivery system more responsive to older patients with complex needs.

Register for C-TAC’s 2017 National Summit, now less than one month away. The Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC)'s National Summit is “the premier event for visionaries in advanced illness care who are actively reshaping the way care is provided.” It will take place in Washington, DC, this November 27-29. Engage with industry leaders on a range of topics including policy, delivery system reform, community engagement, caregiver support, and more. [Read more](#).



