

# National POLST Paradigm

## Forum Topic of the Month

### [POLST Education providing CME/CEUs](#)

CME/CEU opportunities. Do you know of others? Please share!



*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](mailto:info@polst.org), giving us your full name, title/organization and state in which you practice.

## Featured News



### Rebuttal to proposed POLST replacement (MOELI) published in JAMDA.

A rebuttal to the September 2017 editorial "Standardizing Protection of Patients' Rights From POLST to MOELI (Medical Orders for End-of-Life Intervention)" by Richard B. Stuart, DSW, ABPP, and Stephen Thielke, MD, MS, MA, was published in JAMDA. Authors Susan Hickman, Alvin ("Woody") Moss, Karl Steinberg, Charles Sabatino, and Amy Vandenbroucke, in their response, "Proposed POLST replacement creates more problems than it solves," point out that the National POLST Paradigm Task Force maintains standards for POLST Paradigm programs, built on decades of experience. They also explain multiple concerns with the proposed MOELI. [Read more.](#) [View article online \(limited access\).](#)

## Featured Resource



### WEBINAR Tomorrow (Thursday 12/7)! 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 e-Directive Registry associated with the West Virginia POLST Paradigm Program, known as POST (Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment). [Register now.](#)

## Featured Research



### OPTIMISTIC study, which features POLST, recognized as highly successful.

The initial phase of the program [OPTIMISTIC](#) was highly successful in their goal of decreasing avoidable hospitalizations of long-stay nursing facility residents. According to an independent evaluation prepared at the request of the [Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation](#), which funds the OPTIMISTIC study per their [Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents](#), OPTIMISTIC reduced these events "a striking 33%." The palliative care lead for OPTIMISTIC is Susan Hickman, PhD, who is also the new chair of the National POLST Research & Quality Assurance Committee. [View press release.](#)

## Featured Research



### "Are POLSTs the answer to the end-of-life care quality conundrums in cancer care?"

This editorial by Keith M. Swetz, MD, MA, expresses optimism about POLST as a tool for achieving patient goal-concordant care for advanced cancer patients, specifically citing and interpreting the data in the article "Association of POLST Form Use With End-of-Life Care Quality Metrics in Patients With Cancer,"

(featured in our [August eNewsletter](#)) by Sandra L. Pedraza, Stacey Culp, Mark Knestrick, Evan Falkenstine, and Alvin H. Moss. [View article online.](#)

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## National POLST Paradigm News in Brief

**Watch online: Webinar on Civil Money Penalty funds as a source of POLST funding.** On November 9, 2017, the National POLST Paradigm hosted a webinar presented by Richard Cohen, MD, Judy Eads, RN, and Susan Nelson, MD, who shared their experiences with Civil Money Penalty (CMP) funds. [View on YouTube](#) (46 min. including questions). [View POLST webinars web page.](#)

**Nevada Advance Practice Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants can now sign** and validate Nevada POLST Forms, effective July 1, 2017, due to the governor's signing of [AB 199](#). With this measure, signatory authority is now granted to all doctors (MDs), osteopathic physicians (DOs), Advanced Nurse Practitioners (APRNs), and Physician Assistants (PAs) in Nevada. [Learn more about Nevada POLST.](#)

**Watch and share! Conversation Project video, "Practice makes perfect"** makes a serious topic relatable — and even funny — while giving realistic suggestions on how to broach the topic of end of life with your loved ones. [Watch and share \(1 min\).](#)

**Expanded Eligibility for 2018 Sojourns Scholar Leadership Program with Call for Applications.** Previously more limited in its eligibility criteria for applicants, the Cambia Health Foundation has just announced that the 2018 Program is now open to physicians, nurses, social workers, physician assistants, chaplains, psychologists, pharmacists and other emerging health system leaders. [Read more about the Sojourns Scholar Leadership Program.](#)

**Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program information sessions begin soon.** Open to professionals in all disciplines and at all career stages, The John A. Hartford Foundation Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program provides skills, content, and hands-on experience to be able to offer policy solutions to the health challenges of an increasingly aging population and the barriers to the health care system that serves them. [Read more.](#) [Sign up for information sessions.](#)

***The Power of Words: The Importance of Defining and Documenting Goals in Patient-Centered Care*** is a free eBook from the California State University Palliative Care Institute. It will "guide you in how to discuss and document patients' treatment preferences and goals of care... communicating those goals to the rest of the health care team. Most of all, this eBook will empower you to help patients have a powerful and defining voice in their own care during the most vulnerable time in their lives." [View eBook \(PDF\).](#)

**California POLST Train the Trainer Live Training in February 2018.** This POLST course is well-regarded nationally, attended by health care professionals from many states each year. Appropriate for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, LCSWs, LMFTs, nursing home administrators, chaplains and other healthcare providers working with the seriously ill and those nearing the end of life. [More info.](#) [Register here.](#)

**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 \(free, enrollment required\).](#)



