

# National POLST Paradigm

## Forum Topic of the Month

POLST Form Translation help

[Recommend anyone who can help translate POLST Forms?](#)



*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.

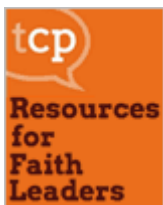
## Featured News



**National Healthcare Decisions Day WEEK is April 16-22, 2018.**

"It always seems too early, until it's too late." Each year the day after tax day is designated National Healthcare Decisions Day, or NHDD. This year, as it was last year, it is expanded into a week in which [each day there is a new theme](#). Use this national movement as a way to promote advance care planning where you work, live, and/or practice. [Read more](#) and [share your NHDD plans](#) on the forum!

## Featured Resource



**Webinar Series: Bringing Advance Care Planning Conversations to Your Congregation.**

Beginning April 17th, 2018, The Conversation Project's advisor to faith, Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, will host *Bringing Advance Care Planning Conversations to Your Congregation*, free six-part web-based course on how to infuse health care decision-making conversations into the life and work of faith communities.

[Register now](#) (first enter your email under Select Attendee, then you can register).

RELATED: See below for the *Getting Started Guide for Congregations*.

## Featured Research



**Surrogate experiences with POLST for patients with advanced dementia.**

A study published by Hyejin Kim, PhD, RN, Christine Bradway, PhD, RN, Susan E. Hickman, PhD, and Mary Ersek, PhD, RN, in the *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners* examined, as its title suggests, "Surrogates' experiences of engaging in POLST discussions for persons with advanced dementia." Conclusion: family surrogates feel emotionally supported during communication and decision-making processes. [Read more](#). [View article online](#)

(limited access). \*See below for more about POLST and Dementia.

## National POLST Paradigm News in Brief

**Indiana physician assistants and advance practice nurses can now sign POST Forms.**

Legislation ([HB 1119](#)) signed by the governor of Indiana on March 13, 2018, grants physician assistants and licensed advance nurses (nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists) the authority to sign Indiana POST (Physician Order for Scope of Treatment) forms, effective July 1, 2018. [Learn more about Indiana POST](#).

**Tennessee nursing home alert issued clarifying proper POLST usage.** On March 8, 2018, the Tennessee End-of-Life Partnership issued to all licensed facilities in Tennessee an Alert clarifying how POST (Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment, Tennessee's version of POLST) is to be properly used, including that a POST is always to be voluntary and the result of a conversation,

among other specific instructions. [View Alert text \(PDF\)](#).

**The Nevada POLST Form** is now available in Spanish. [View more about the Spanish version of the Nevada POLST](#). [Learn more about Nevada POLST](#).

**ACP billing code utilization doubles over first year.** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data for the first half of calendar year 2017 shows that Advance Care Planning (ACP) billing code utilization continues to rise. [Read more](#).

**Upcoming Webinars and Conferences:**

**Webinar: Exploring New Practice Recommendations for Dementia Care\***. On April 19, 2018, join the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC) and the National Partnership for Hospice Innovation for an in-depth look at the the 2018 Dementia Care Practice Recommendations, which were released by the Alzheimer's Association earlier this year. [Register](#). \*See below for more about POLST and Dementia.

**Working With POLST – For Professionals online course** available through the CSU Institute for Palliative Care. This 3-hour, online, self-paced course is designed to help healthcare professionals understand the role and value of POLST, and how to employ it in documenting and honoring patient wishes. [Register](#).

**Watch: Conversation on Living Well with Dementia\***. In case you missed it, hosted by Kaiser Health News and supported by The John A Hartford Foundation, this panel discussion was recorded live on February 13, 2018. Offering their personal and professional insights, a fresh, frank, and fascinating discussion between 5 panelists enlightens the audience about not just the difficulties, but hopeful and positive approaches to living with dementia from firsthand expert perspectives. [Watch \(1 hr discussion plus 35 min questions\)](#). \*See below for more about POLST and Dementia.

**\*Learn more about Dementia and POLST** by reviewing the 2015 webinar presented by Kenneth Brummel-Smith, MD, [The Role of POLST in the Care of People with Dementia](#). [View all POLST webinars](#). [View in YouTube](#).

**Other Resources:**

**The Getting Started Guide for Congregations** is designed to help congregational leaders introduce [The Conversation Project](#)'s mission and free resources in the communities they know and serve. It is filled with examples of how diverse faith communities are encouraging their congregants to engage in thoughtful reflection and have conversations about their end-of-life care wishes with loved ones and health care providers. [View the Getting Started Guide for Congregations](#) (PDF).

**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 \(PDF\)](#).

