

# National POLST Paradigm

## Forum Topic of the Month

Revisiting the "Surprise Question":

[Why is a POLST Form only recommended for frail and seriously ill patients with less than one year of life expectancy?](#)



*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.

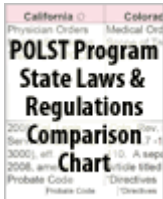
## Featured Resource



### New National POLST Maps!

The National POLST Paradigm has published two new maps online: *Level of POLST Adoption by State* and *State POLST Registry Information*. Both are available, in addition to the original map and much more information, at our [POLST Programs / Map web page](#). The map PDFs may also be directly downloaded: [POLST Adoption Map](#), [POLST Registry Map](#), and the original [POLST National Designations Map](#).

## Featured Resource



### Updated for 2018!: POLST State Laws and Regulations Comparison Chart.

The National POLST Paradigm *State POLST Laws and Regulations Comparison Chart* has been updated now reflects what is known to be current as of April 1, 2018. This document is available at our [POLST Programs / Map web page](#) or the PDF can be [downloaded directly](#). Many thanks to the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging for providing this compilation for us.

## Featured Publication



### POLST: The Seven Deadly Sins

The American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging published in its bi-monthly journal, *BiFocal*, "POLST: Avoid The 7 Deadly Sins." This article warns how *improper* use of POLST may undermining person-centered, informed decision-making at the end of life. [Download article](#) (PDF). [View full issue of the March-April 2018 BiFocal](#) (PDF). Related: Review the [POLST Appropriate Use Policy](#) to better understand the intended use of POLST and POLST forms.

## Featured Webinar



### NEW POLST Technology Consensus Project Webinar Series Starts May 22!

The National POLST Paradigm is launching a new webinar series focused on the technologies relevant to POLST. For the first webinar in the series, on May 22, Amy Vandenbroucke, Executive Director of the National POLST Paradigm, will provide an overview of the POLST Paradigm and the goals of the [POLST Technology Consensus Project](#). [Register now](#).

## National POLST Paradigm News in Brief

The **National POLST Technology Consensus Project** is kicking off with a webinar series, open to all, on May 22 (see above Featured Webinar). The goal of this consensus project is to conduct diligence on what is currently being done in our POLST Programs, to invite vendors to share their solutions, and to work with experts in a number of tech-related fields in order to identify best practices and provide guidance to help POLST Programs effectively harness the promise of technology. [Read more.](#)

### New Films, Books and Broadcasts about End of Life:

**END GAME** is a short documentary that follows visionary medical practitioners who are working on the cutting edge of life and death—and dedicated to changing our thinking about both. [View End Game website.](#)

**Defining Hope** is currently being broadcast on PBS stations nationally by [American Public Television](#), and premiering on the WORLD Channel April 30th and May 1st. [Check your local listings](#) to see when the film will be playing in your area. [Select scenes are available online for free](#), with accompanying discussion guides: these particular video scenes are intended for face-to-face classroom use to accompany the PDF written discussion guides. [Learn more about Defining Hope.](#)

**Bridging the Gap: Life Lessons from the Dying**, is newly published: "Live vicariously through Kimberly C. Paul as she shares personal stories and the life lessons she has learned while working with hospice patients over the last 18 years. This innovative and uplifting book is an invitation to move beyond the current standards of what death has come to mean in our culture." [Read more and purchase online.](#)

**Where to Start with End-of-Life Decisions**, broadcast by NPR on April 19, 2018, features Diane Rehm, Rosemary Gibson, Bud Hammes, and Jessica Zitter, who discuss: Today's treatment options offer many options for prolonging life. But when someone decides that it's time to let go, how can they and their loved ones best prepare? [Listen to the discussion.](#)

### Request for Papers:

**Health Affairs**, continuing its series on *Aging and Health* through 2018 and 2019, *Health Affairs* is seeking submissions from authors on topics surrounding the care of older adults, including new models of care and the management of multiple chronic conditions among this population. [Read the announcement.](#)

### Webinars, Conferences, Other Resources:

**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.](#)

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

