

National POLST Paradigm

Forum Topic of the Month

Did you know:

[Media resources are available for all POLST Programs!](#)

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



New POLST Leadership announced!

The National POLST Paradigm has revised its governance structure. Thank you to everyone who has served as a [Task Force Member](#) (found [here](#)) and welcome to our new [Leadership Council](#) (pending 3 more members) and [Plenary Assembly members](#)! Read more on the [POLST Leadership](#) web page.

Featured Resource



POLST: State Approaches to POLST Registries webinar available online.

POLST: State Approaches to POLST Registries, the June 12th webinar presentation by Dana Zive, MPH, is available for viewing. It is the second webinar in the POLST Technology Consensus Project series. Ms. Zive, the Technology Advisor to the National POLST Paradigm, presented an overview of state registries, a summary of approaches, what is working well, and what can be improved. [View on YouTube](#). [See the list of POLST Technology webinars](#).

Featured Research



National Standards and State Variation in POLST Forms

Study authors Susan Hickman, PhD, and Rebecca Critser reviewed 47 state POLST forms to determine whether they adhered to the National POLST Paradigm standards. Overall, they found that "state POLST forms are largely adherent" to national standards but recommend that the national "standards should be periodically reviewed and evaluated to ensure they are clear and consistently applied" to the state programs. [Read more](#). [View online \(limited access\)](#).

National POLST Paradigm News in Brief

POLST News

The National POLST Technology Consensus Project has started its webinar series! All are welcome to register for these short (~30-minute) webinars, intended to give you background information on POLST Technologies. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions to make the presentation more interactive and address individual interests. [Read more about the Tech Consensus Project](#).

Terri Schmidt, MD, honored, recognized for exceptional leadership and service to the medical profession on a national or international level. Dr. Schmidt was the National POLST Paradigm's first EMS advisor. [Read more](#).

Patricia Bomba, MD, received the highest honor bestowed upon a physician by the Monroe County Medical Society (MCMS) in New York. Dr. Bomba is the leader of New York's POLST Paradigm Program, MOLST (Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment). [Read more..](#)

New Legislation in Alabama sets rules for POLST for schoolchildren. The governor of Alabama signed on two new bills, [HB194](#) and [HB202](#) which affect POLST in Alabama, requiring schools to have individual palliative and end-of-life care plans for terminally ill children.

Nurse Practitioners can now sign POLST in New York. Per legislation passed in November 2017, in New York, nurse practitioners now have the authority to execute (sign) MOLST (Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment, New York's version of POLST) forms, effective May 28, 2018. [Read more.](#) [View state POLST signature requirements \(PDF\).](#)

New Films, Books and Broadcasts about End of Life:

END GAME is a short documentary—for which POLST Leader Jim Mittelberger served as a co-executive producer—that follows visionary medical practitioners who are working on the cutting edge of life and death—and dedicated to changing our thinking about both. Available on Netflix. [View End Game website.](#)

Defining Hope is currently being broadcast on PBS stations nationally by [American Public Television](#). [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:

Get trained at California's POLST Train-the-Trainer workshops. The Coalition for Compassionate Care of California has been holding their POLST Train the Trainer workshops on a semi-annual basis for years, drawing participants nationally, as they are well respected by the POLST community at large. The next training is slated for August 15-16. [Read more.](#) [Register.](#)

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 \(PDF\).](#)



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