

# POLST

*physician orders for life-sustaining treatment paradigm*

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear POLST friends,

Over the past month, we have had many exciting developments that demonstrate the vibrancy of POLST programming. From the first POLST programs achieving Mature status to legislation creating the Indiana POST program, we are making great strides to ensure that the wishes of seriously ill patients are being honored.



As we look forward to a summer filled with more successes, I encourage you to share news about POLST via social media. By reaching the broad audience of a social network, we can increase awareness of POLST, further educate about POLST, and advocate for its use nationwide. To that end, we are hosting a Social Media Webinar this month and have recently released a Principles for Social Networking document (see Featured Resource). We hope you find these resources helpful as you share POLST information across your coalitions.

Best wishes,

Amy Vandenbroucke, JD  
Executive Director

## News

### Upcoming Social Media Webinar

On June 18th, National POLST will host a webinar on social media. The webinar will explain the importance of social media in a comprehensive communications strategy and help participants learn how to use Twitter and Facebook. The webinar will take place from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm Pacific Time. Registration is required.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the

## FEATURED NEWS

### POLST Programs Achieve Milestone

The **Oregon POLST** and the **West Virginia POST** programs are the first POLST Paradigm programs to achieve Mature status. Mature status denotes POLST Paradigm programs in which POLST is fully integrated into advance care planning for persons with advanced illness or frailty. In addition, Mature programs have statewide implementation and must meet strict benchmarks for usage by EMS, hospitals, hospices, and long-term care facilities. Mature POLST programs set the standard for how POLST can transform end-of-life care to be more responsive to the wishes of patients themselves.

To learn more about the process for achieving Mature status, or

webinar or [register here](#).

## Indiana Passes POST Legislation

Earlier this month, Indiana's legislature passed a bill creating the Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (POST) Program. Governor Mike Pence then signed the bill into law. Indiana will now set out to develop POST pilot programs before it implements POST statewide.

[Click here](#) to read an article about Indiana's POST program from Indiana Public Media.

## Georgia POLST is Endorsed

Georgia has become the 16th state with an Endorsed POLST Paradigm program. To achieve this distinction, the Georgia POLST program has become the preferred method of advance care planning for those with advanced illness and frailty. To learn more about Georgia's POLST program, [click here](#).

## Save the Date!

The [National POLST Leadership Conference](#) will be held February 13-14, 2014 at the Hyatt Place Atlanta Airport-South Hotel.

Conference information was sent to state contacts and additional information will follow later this year. If there are any questions, please contact the POLST National Office at [polst@ohsu.edu](mailto:polst@ohsu.edu).

any NPPTF status, [click here](#).

## FEATURED RESOURCE

### Principles for Social Networking

National POLST has released a Principles for Social Networking document that is designed to guide POLST Paradigm programs as they enter the world of social media. Social media is now an essential part of any comprehensive communications strategy, but it has potential pitfalls. The Principles for Social Networking document delineates a series of best practices to ensure that social media amplifies the messages you want and does not undermine professionalism.

To read the Principles for Social Networking document, [click here](#).

## FEATURED RESEARCH

### Efficacy of POLST Registries

A recent article in the Journal of Emergency Medicine explored the efficacy of the Oregon POLST Registry. The authors conducted a survey of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to evaluate whether access to the registry influenced patient care. A second survey of patients or their surrogates was conducted to determine whether the care received conformed to the wishes recorded in the POLST form. Based on this small, preliminary study, the authors found that access to the POLST form altered treatment decisions 44% of the time. In addition, they determined that treatment matched POLST preferences for 10 out of the 11 patients/surrogates surveyed. The authors conclude that electronic registries help EMTs locate and implement POLST orders. To access the full article, click the citation below:

**Schmidt, TA et al. (2013). "The Oregon Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment Registry: A Preliminary Study of Emergency Medical Services Utilization." Journal of Emergency Medicine. Accessed online on 27 May 2013.**

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Honoring the wishes of those with advanced illness and frailty

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