

POLST

physician orders for life-sustaining treatment paradigm

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The National POLST Paradigm is driven by education. We educate lawmakers about the need to honor patient wishes; we raise public awareness about the existence of POLST; and we work with health care professionals to understand the intended use of the POLST Paradigm.



As the legislative accomplishments of recent weeks (see Featured News) demonstrate, your commitment to education and advocacy is working. Yet, as always, there is more for us to do. We need to continue to educate health care professionals to be sure that POLST is being used consistently and as intended, and we need to educate patients about their options at the end of life.

To further our educational priorities, I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity to provide feedback on the Oregon POLST "lay person" video (see Featured Resource). This video will be available for all POLST Programs to adapt, so we should work to make it as effective an educational tool as possible. By educating patients about their options, we will be helping honor their wishes.

Best wishes,

Amy Vandenbroucke, JD

Executive Director

News

Webinar on Oregon POLST Registry Research

On June 23, the National POLST

FEATURED NEWS

POLST Legislation Sweeping Across the Country

In recent weeks, a number of POLST bills have moved forward in state legislatures. On March 31, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant signed into law a bill to create a Physician Order for Sustaining

Office will be hosting a webinar on research using POLST Registry data. Dana Zive, MPH will be presenting on the use of Oregon POLST Registry Data in research. The webinar will be held from 10:00 am to 11:00 am Pacific Time.

To register for the webinar, contact Faith Henion at henion@ohsu.edu.

NHDD a Success!

During the weeks leading up to National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD), we were pleased to see so much social media activity from POLST Programs, particularly those in Louisiana, New York, and Washington.

Events like NHDD are excellent opportunities to publicize the POLST Program and to increase awareness in the advance care planning community.

If you have questions about how to establish a social media presence in your state, contact us at polst@ohsu.edu.

Treatment (POST), which will take effect on July 1, 2014. The bill is notable for having gained the support of both the disability community and the right-to-life community.

Also with the support of the disability community, the Connecticut Senate passed a bill that would create a two year MOLST pilot program. Next, the bill will be considered by the Connecticut House.

In addition, Hawaii is considering legislation to allow advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to sign POLST forms and to improve POLST legislation. The bill has been passed by the Senate and the House and will be presented to Governor Neil Abercrombie to be signed.

Finally, the Illinois House is considering a bill that will clarify distinctions between Do-Not-Resuscitate Orders and POLST, and will also allow advanced practice nurses and physician assistants sign POLST forms.

These legislative accomplishments reflect the growing importance of POLST in national conversations about end-of-life care, and the hard work of POLST coalitions. We encourage you to share legislative updates from your state with us so that we can publicize your efforts.

To read the Mississippi bill, [click here](#).

To read the Connecticut bill, [click here](#).

To read the Hawaii bill, [click here](#).

To read the Illinois bill, [click here](#).

FEATURED RESOURCE

POLST "Lay Person" Video

The Oregon POLST Program is developing a new 4.5 minute video explaining POLST in lay terms. Like the POLST in Action video, the video - which will provide just-in-time education to patients and families - will be available for other POLST Programs to tailor to their states. Since this video will be available for adaptation, the Oregon POLST Task Force is soliciting feedback on the draft video. Please watch the video and let us know whether it effectively conveys the POLST Program to a non-expert audience. The Task Force requests feedback by June 15th in order to be incorporated into the final version.

Once production of the final video is scheduled, the National POLST Office will provide information about the process and costs for adapting the video to your state.

To watch the video at a password-protected site, [click here](#). The password to view the video is POLST.

Please send your feedback to polst@ohsu.edu.

FEATURED RESEARCH

Understandings of DNR and MOLST Among EMS Personnel

A recent article in the [Journal of Palliative Medicine](#) explores how paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) learn about and understand advance care planning tools. The authors surveyed 178 Paramedics and EMTs about their knowledge of

DNRs and MOLST.

The authors found that a large majority of paramedics and EMTs had formal education about DNRs (92%) and MOLST (77%). A significant percentage also learned about DNRs and MOLST through experience and self-directed learning.

Both types of professional groups were confident interpreting the advance care planning documents and resolving conflicts. More than 90% of paramedics and EMTs were confident about interpreting a DNR and more than 80% were confident about interpreting a MOLST. Notably, paramedics were slightly less confident than EMTs (84% vs. 91%) about interpreting a MOLST.

Despite the high levels of education and confidence about using DNRs and MOLST, 73% of respondents asserted that more professional education is needed and 61% suggested that more public education is needed. Indeed, this study demonstrates that there are more paramedics and EMTs who are in need of education, particularly about MOLST. The results also demonstrate that MOLST lags behind DNRs in formal education for emergency medical services.

To access the full article, click the citation below:

Waldrop, DP, B Clemency, E Maguin, and H Lindstrom (2014). "Preparation for Frontline End-of-Life Care: Exploring the Perspectives of Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians." *Journal of Palliative Medicine* 17(3):338-341.

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