

December 2014/January 2015

POLST

physician orders for life-sustaining treatment paradigm

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Dear Friends,

As 2014 draws to a close, I am proud of the accomplishments that the National POLST Paradigm has achieved this year. With the publication of **landmark research**, we have important evidence that wishes recorded in POLST Forms are honored. With endorsements from the **American Medical Directors Association** and the **Institute of Medicine (IOM)**, POLST has been firmly established as a tool of advance care planning. And with honors, such as Susan Tolle's **MacLean Center Prize in Medical Ethics**, we know that POLST is at the cutting-edge of a new focus on end-of-life care.



Looking ahead, I am excited for the successes that lie in our future. For example, in the coming months, the NPPTF Communications Committee will be sharing talking points about the IOM report and building on the message that POLST is needed in all states. And later this year, Congressman Earl Blumenauer plans to reintroduce the Personalize Your Care Act that includes funding provisions for POLST Programs and other advance care planning initiatives. These are just a two of the many things we have to look forward to in 2015.

Our successes - large and small - are what allow us to grow the POLST Paradigm and continue to serve individuals with serious illness or frailty. I am eager for us to collaborate to make 2015 a great year for the National POLST Paradigm and a great year for every POLST Program.

Best wishes,

Amy Vandenbroucke

Amy Vandenbroucke, JD
Executive Director

Our News

Funding Opportunity for Palliative Care Leaders

The 2015 **Sojourns Scholar Leadership Program** is now accepting applications. Run by the Cambia Health Foundation, the program is designed to identify and cultivate the next generation of palliative care leaders. Scholars are provided \$180,000 in funding over two years and the application is due February 28th.

To apply, visit www.cambiahealthfoundation.org.

Kansas EMS Supports TPOPP

In early December, the **Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services** (EMS) unanimously approved a resolution supporting the implementation of **Transportable Physician Orders for Patient Preferences** (TPOPP). TPOPP, which is Kansas and Missouri's POLST Paradigm, will be implemented in Kansas via EMS agency policies and protocols.

March Webinar: EMS's Vital Role with POLST

Save the date for the March National POLST webinar on the importance of emergency medical services (EMS) with POLST. The webinar will take place on March 30th from 12 pm - 1 pm Pacific Time. The webinar will be led by Angela Fera, the EMS Advisor to the National POLST Paradigm Task Force.

Registration will open later this month and will be accessible through POLST.org.

FEATURED NEWS

California POLST Registry in Development

The **California HealthCare Foundation** (CHCF) has initiated a POLST registry pilot project in California. Through a **Request for Information** due in November 2014, the CHCF sought to identify communities that could pilot the registry. If successful, the registry would ensure that emergency responders and other medical professionals have immediate access to patient POLST forms during an emergency so they can provide care that accommodates a patient's wishes.

On December 3rd, the **CHCF hosted an informational webinar** to explain the POLST Paradigm and the importance of exploring the creation of a California POLST registry. Webinar presenters included Judy Thomas, JD, presenting on POLST and the history (and success!) of the California POLST Program, and Susan Tolle, MD, presenting on the Oregon POLST Registry (which celebrated its five year anniversary that day!).

To watch a recording of the webinar, [click here](#).

FEATURED ARTICLE

Article Explores Misconceptions About POLST

Members of the National POLST Paradigm Task Force (NPPTF) have written an article that explores the similarities and differences between POLST and advance directives, and identified the importance of the POLST Paradigm in advance care planning. The article was written by NPPTF members Amy Vandembroucke, JD, Susan Nelson, MD, Patricia Bomba, MD, and Alvin Moss, MD. The authors provide a detailed description of POLST that addresses common misunderstandings about the POLST Paradigm.

Among the key points that the article emphasizes is the fact that POLST and advance directives are complementary rather than competing documents. In addition, the authors underscore that POLST is a voluntary document that is completed by a trained health care professional. As a result, POLST Forms feature specific language that is clear to health care professionals during an emergency. Finally, the authors document the ways that POLST articulates with Catholic values about end-of-life treatment and affirm that POLST always provides patients with "ordinary" measures that ensure comfort.

The article is a valuable resource that will help state POLST Programs concisely and clearly describe the National POLST Paradigm.

To download and read the full article, [click here](#).

FEATURED RESOURCE

Glossary for Grantseekers

The **Foundation Center**, an organization that advances knowledge about philanthropy, has published a glossary with essential terms for grantseekers. This glossary will be of use to POLST Programs seeking funding to implement, expand, or evaluate their programming. Referencing this glossary ensures that grant applicants will understand the requirements for funding and that applications will be as strong as possible. Thanks to the **California HealthCare Foundation** (CHCF) for providing the glossary to distribute.

To access the glossary, [click here](#).

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