



National POLST Paradigm Endorses Virginia's POST Program

DATE -- The National POLST Paradigm Task Force is proud to recognize Virginia's POST Program as the 19th endorsed state POLST Program. The National POLST Paradigm Task Force endorses programs when they have proven they've developed and implemented a program and Form that meet the national standards. Virginia's POST Collaborative Program is directed by Matthew Kestenbaum, MD.

The Virginia POST Coalition has a centralized organizational home and has attained the support of Emergency Medical Services. Their Program is using effective educational resources and alternative training models such as role playing for healthcare professionals and care coordinators.

"POLST is designed to improve patient care and reduce medical errors," said Amy Vandembroucke, executive director of the National POLST Paradigm. "We are grateful that in Virginia, patients with serious illness or frailty in what may be their last year of life can work with medical professionals to make their treatment wishes known."

Details on Virginia's POST program can be found at <http://www.polst.org/programs-in-your-state/> - click on Virginia.

Virginia's POST Form can be found at <http://www.polst.org/endorsed-polst-forms/>

About the National POLST Paradigm

The National POLST Paradigm is an approach to end-of-life planning based on conversations between health care professionals and patients; the patient discusses his or her values, beliefs, and goals for care, and the health care professional presents the patient's diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment alternatives. Together they reach a shared decision about the patient's treatment plan that is informed and based on the patient's values, beliefs and goals for care.

The National POLST Paradigm began in Oregon in 1991 by health care professionals who recognized that patient preferences for end-of-life treatment were not being consistently honored during emergencies. Over the past 20+ years the Paradigm has expanded to 44 states.

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