

# National POLST Paradigm

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## Dear Friends,

Happy October! As we *slowly* start entering the holiday season — a time for being with families and loved ones — I wanted to make sure we all remember that the POLST Paradigm is not just helping to elicit, document and honor patient treatment wishes. It also helps support and alleviate surrogate burden and distress for caregivers (see [Lee's Story, PDF, 2MB](#)).

Family caregivers are often very critical in the care of patients within the intended POLST Paradigm population. Last month, the Health and Medicine Division (HMD) of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine published a report, [Families Caring for an Aging America](#), which stated that:

**"The need to recognize and support caregivers is among the least appreciated challenges facing the aging U.S. population."**

This report ([read online](#), [download](#), [purchase](#), [watch webinar](#)) describes the status of family members who provide care for older adults in America, including: the identification of the caregivers; the types, complexity and duration of the tasks performed; and the impact on the caregivers. [Four key recommendations, aimed at the Administration that takes office in 2017, are provided](#) on how to address this public health concern, in which it is made clear that a broad transformation of our health care system is required. A [4-page Report in Brief \(PDF\) is also available](#).

**"If the needs of caregivers are not addressed, we risk compromising the well-being of our elders and their families."**

I strongly encourage you to read and share this information.

Take care,



## Amy Vandembroucke, JD

Executive Director, National POLST Paradigm

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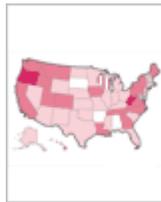
### Featured Resource: NPPTF POLST Forms and EHR recommendations revised



**New POLST and EHR Recommendations announced.**

On August 25, 2016, the National POLST Paradigm Task Force approved a new set of *Recommendations for Integrating Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Forms with Electronic Health Records* (also called EHR, or EMR, for Electronic Medical Records). [Download PDF \(58 KB\)](#).

### Featured Resource: POLST Paradigm state-by-state legislative comparison chart



**Detailed comparison chart of many legal aspects of POLST across all states (e.g., reciprocity) revised, available online.**

Questions often arise about the differences in POLST across different states, such as the issue of reciprocity, or whether a POLST Form will be honored when traveling with a patient out-of-state. Many thanks to legal expert Charlie Sabatino, JD, for compiling and revising this detailed resource. [View Legislative Comparison Chart \(PDF, 249 KB\)](#).

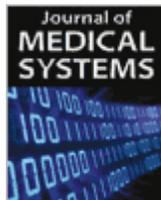
### Featured Research: Advance care planning in nursing homes



**Journal of the American Geriatrics Society publishes paper by Susan Hickman, PhD, on ACP and POLST use in nursing homes.**

[Susan Hickman, PhD](#), and others published a research study, "An Interim Analysis of an Advance Care Planning Intervention in the Nursing Home Setting" in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. A main finding was that more time and resources than typically allotted are necessary to perform adequate advance care planning. [Preview article online](#). [Download PDF \(limited access\)](#).

### Featured Research: ePOLST Implementation case study



**Implementation of a Novel Electronic Health Record-Embedded Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment System**

Dana Zive, MPH, and others recently authored an article about ePOLST implementation at the Oregon Health & Science University: "Implementation of a Novel Electronic Health Record-Embedded Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment System," published in *Journal of Medical Systems*. This ePOLST system was found to be a "tool for improving workflow efficiency, effective completion of error-free POLST Forms, providing immediate access to orders, and assuring direct and timely submission to the statewide Registry." [View/download article](#).

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## National POLST Paradigm News in Brief

**CCCC continues to offer *Train the Trainer* POLST Education.** The [Coalition for Compassionate Care of California \(CCCC\)](#) offers several recurring courses in a wide range of topics including Advance Care Planning and POLST. The [Train the Trainer course](#) is relevant for most POLST educators across the US, and is being offered October 19-20 in Irvine, CA, and November 8-9 in Fresno, CA.

**West Virginia offers courses in POST, Advance Directives, and Ethics.** The [West Virginia Network of Ethics Committee](#) is offering three courses: (1) [An online webinar on Completing the POST \(Physician Order for Scope of Treatment\) Form](#); (2) [An online webinar on Advance Care Planning: Why, What and How](#); and (3) An in-person [Noon Webinar on the Ethics of Treating the Unbefriended Patient](#). [Learn more](#).

**GSA Presentation will feature POLST.** Maureen Henry, JD, PhD, Research Scientist at the

National Committee for Quality Assurance, shall deliver a presentation, "Treatment Preferences Among Patients in Residential Settings With POLST Forms," on November 16, 2016, at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. We appreciate Dr. Henry's efforts in promoting POLST! [Learn more about the 2016 GSA Annual Meeting.](#)

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