

National POLST Paradigm

Featured Event: NHDD



National Healthcare Decisions Day expands to a full week for its 10th anniversary! National Healthcare Decisions Day, also known as NHDD, is April 16th every year, the day after taxes are due—a nod towards the famous quip, "nothing is certain but death and taxes." The year 2017 marks NHDD's 10th anniversary, so, [a whole week from April 16 to 22](#), this year will be dedicated to the positive message and act of advance care planning for one's own sake as well as for those we love.

Are **you** planning any special activities to promote NHDD? [Let us know by email](#) (we'd love to promote it). **Need ideas?** [Check out the NHDD website](#) to help you make plans for a special NHDD event in your area! **POLST Paradigm Forum members:** [Visit the forum](#) to view the topic [promoting the POLST Paradigm on NHDD](#) for past and current ideas—and add your own!

Featured Event: POLST Webinar Series



Register NOW! POLST Toolkit Webinar Series expanded, starts THIS Thursday, 4/6! Don't miss the overview of the webinar series on *Using the POLST Paradigm to Honor Patient Wishes Across the Care Continuum*. Amy Vandenbroucke, JD, will deliver the series opener on Thursday, April 6, 2017, at 2 pm ET / 1 pm CT / noon MT / 11 am PT. [For more info, visit our Toolkit webpage.](#) [Register for this overview](#)—or any of the 5 practice-focused webinars: [Primary Care](#), [EMS](#), [In-patient Hospital](#), [Nursing Home](#), and [Hospice](#).

Featured Publication: Lessons from Oregon



Lessons from Oregon in Embracing Complexity in End of Life Care. In this March 16, 2017, *New England Journal of Medicine* article, Susan Tolle, MD, and Joan Teno, MD, discuss why Oregon patients are more likely to receive the end-of-life health care treatment they want, compared to patients in Washington and the U.S. overall. [Read more.](#) [View online \(limited access\).](#)

Featured Publication: PFEC



Patient and Family Engaged Care Discussed in National Academy of Medicine The National Academy of Medicine published a discussion paper, *Harnessing Evidence and Experience to Change Culture: A Guiding Framework for Patient and Family Engaged Care*. Following the 2016 report by the National Academy of Medicine on [Families Caring for an Aging America](#), Patient and Family Engaged Care (PFEC) is finally gaining recognition as a needed culture shift in approach to health care, particularly as caring for aging family members becomes prevalent.

[Download Full PDF of Discussion Paper.](#)

National POLST Paradigm News in Brief

National POLST Paradigm presented at at ASA Aging in America conference in March 2017. In late February, the National POLST Paradigm also gave presentations at the Social Work Hospice & Palliative Care Network General Assembly and American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Annual Assembly. The level of interest in the POLST Paradigm were encouraging signs that more and more health care professionals are aware of our work and interested in getting involved.

National leaders convene to forge Catholic *Pathways to Convergence*. In late January 2017, Susan Nelson and John Carney participated in a day long proceeding in Chicago, convened by the Center for Practical Bioethics with funding from Pew Charitable Trusts, to examine diverse perspectives of Catholics on advance care planning, palliative care and end-of-life care in the U.S. This meeting was a culmination of three months of intense discussions in small work groups composed of Catholic physicians, nurses, academics, theologians, ethicists, and clergy who delved into these topics as well as the role of the Church in the public square. Respectful discussions on clinical, ethical, spiritual, ecclesial and societal dimensions prepared the groups for their convening at the Chicago deliberations. The overall goal was to determine if, from the process of examining divergent and convergent perspectives, a path forward could emerge that would promote further action and dialogue. As you might imagine, POLST Paradigm initiatives were part of the work groups' discussions on numerous levels. A report from the steering group leaders of the *Pathways to Convergence* project is expected in April with robust dissemination plans for a broad array of audiences and readers.

State leaders: Help the National POLST Paradigm help you! (1) State POLST Contacts, please help ensure that our information about your POLST Program is accurate by verifying [your state program contact info on our online map](#). Please [email us](#) if anything should be updated. (2) Recommend to us your statewide POLST proponents whom we should invite to the National POLST Paradigm online forum. We want to foster an online community discussion space where those interested and involved in implementing POLST can ask questions and share best practices about the POLST Paradigm. Please [email us](#) the contact info of those whom you'd recommend to participate in this forum.

Still time to apply for the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program, "a unique opportunity for professionals in health and aging to receive the experience and skills necessary to make a positive contribution to the development and implementation of health policies that affect older Americans." Deadline is April 15. [Program info](#). [Application instructions](#).

Congratulations to Arkansas! On March 16, 2017, Arkansas SB 356 was signed into law by Governor Asa Hutchinson, creating Act 504, which establishes the Arkansas POLST (Physician Order for Life Sustaining Treatment) and allows for use of a POLST Form in Arkansas. [View legislative details about SB 356](#).

C-TAC and Respecting Choices form partnership. The Respecting Choices program has announced its official transition from Gundersen Health System to C-TAC Innovations. On January 27, 2017, Respecting Choices began operating from their new offices at 600 Third Street North, Suite #101, in La Crosse. [Read more in the C-TAC Press Release](#).

