

National POLST Paradigm

Featured News: Free POLST Webinar Series underway



Featured in May: *POLST in EMS* and *POLST in the Hospital inpatient setting*.

On May 3, 2017, Angela Fera, BA, Paramedic and Katrina Altenhofen, MPH, Paramedic, will present the next of the POLST Toolkit Webinar Series, focused on Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The following week, on May 11, 2017, Suzanne Labriola, DO, will present a webinar on POLST in the Hospital (inpatient) setting. [Read about the webinar series](#). Register online for: [POLST in EMS](#), [Hospital \(in patient\)](#), [Nursing Home](#), and [Hospice](#) settings.

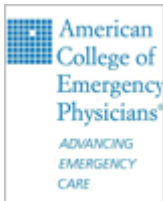
Featured Resource: New National POLST Paradigm Policy



New National POLST Paradigm Appropriate Use Policy available online.

On April 17, 2017, the National POLST Paradigm Task Force approved a policy regarding the appropriate use of POLST Paradigm Forms. This resource may be used to help clarify for whom, and under what circumstances a POLST Paradigm Form is appropriate, answering many frequently asked questions. [View Appropriate Use](#) (PDF) or [View all National POLST Paradigm Policies](#).

Featured Resource: POLST Guidelines for Emergency Physicians



The American College of Emergency Physicians issues official Guidelines on POLST

The American College of Emergency Physicians issued an official Policy Statement: *Guidelines for Emergency Physicians on the Interpretation of Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Therapy (POLST)*. Useful for both EDs and EMS, this documents clarifies who should have POLST Forms, what to do in the case of conflicts in orders, and the legal status of POLST. [View online](#) (PDF).

View web page with [Resolutions Supporting the POLST Paradigm](#).

Featured Resource: Free ASA Publication!



Free full online issue: *Reforming Advanced Illness and End-of-Life Care*

The American Society on Aging (ASA)'s Spring issue of *Generations* is dedicated to "ensuring all Americans with advanced illness receive comprehensive, high-quality, and person- and family-centered care consistent with their goals and values." Included in this issue is an article by National POLST leaders Judy Thomas, JD, and Charlie Sabatino, JD, who discuss POLST, MOLST, DNR, and living wills, and the forms and conversations related to advance care planning over the last few decades. ASA is granting free online access to this special issue! [Read more](#). [View Spring 2017 issue of *Generations*](#) (requires Adobe Flash).

Featured Research: Which specialists sign POLST Forms?



Most POLST Forms are signed by Primary Care.

The *American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Medicine* recently published an article by Austin Lammers, Dana Zive, Susan Tolle, and Erik Fromme, "The Oncology Specialist's Role in POLST Form Completion." Based on data from deceased cancer patient statistics determined from the Oregon POLST Registry, the study authors found that 41% of patients had a POLST Form in the Registry, and that most (53.7%) were signed by primary care, vs. 14.9% by oncologists.

[Read more](#). [View online \(limited access\)](#).

National POLST Paradigm News in Brief

In DC on May 3rd? Join NHDD's Call to Advance Care Planning. [National Healthcare Decisions Day](#) invites you to join us in celebrating 10 years of inspiring, educating, and empowering the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. [Read more and RSVP.](#)

Get The John A. Hartford Foundation 2016 Annual Report, which "describes the Foundation's strategic focus on three intrinsically interconnected areas: Age-Friendly Health Systems, Family Caregiving, and Serious Illness and End of Life." [Read more.](#) [Download the Annual Report PDF.](#)

Legislation watch: Support PCHETA. The National POLST Paradigm and dozens of other health care organizations support the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act ([PCHETA](#)), which would increase palliative care and hospice training, educate patients and families about palliative care, and enhance research on improving the delivery of palliative care. Read our [letters of support for PCHETA to the House](#) and [Senate](#). Interested in [following and discussing topics such as PCHETA](#)? Join our [online forum](#). To join, [email us](#) with information about your role and where you work, and we will connect you with your state leaders as a first step in helping you get connected.

Hone your skills at California's POLST: It starts with a Conversation - Train the Trainer workshops. The Coalition for Compassionate Care of California has been holding their POLST *Train the Trainer* workshops on a semi-annual basis for years, drawing participants nationally, as they are well-respected by POLST community at large. [Read more.](#) [Register online.](#)

