

National POLST Paradigm

Featured News



Recommendations to the Administration sent to Secretaries Price and Shulkin.

On February 17, 2017, fourteen health care organizations, including the National POLST Paradigm Office, joined together in sending a letter to Tom Price, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and David Shulkin, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The letter identifies key challenges in palliative and end-of-life care and makes detailed recommendations for their improvement. [Read more](#). [Download Letter \(PDF\)](#).

Featured Resource



Multiple Policy Developments at the National Level.

The National POLST Paradigm Task Force formally approved: (1) Fundamental Policy Principles (updated from 2012 version: [View PDF](#)). (2) Conflict of Interest Policy (New: [View PDF](#)). [Read More](#). [View National POLST Paradigm Policies web page](#).

Featured Research



West Virginia POST affects place of death for advanced cancer patients.

On February 24th, Alvin ("Woody") Moss, MD, presented POLST research at the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Annual Assembly. Advanced cancer patients who had died with West Virginia POST (Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment) Forms or advance directives in the West Virginia e-Directive Registry were the subjects of the study. [Read More](#) about this research. Visit the [West Virginia Center for End-of-Life Care](#) website.

Featured Research



Shared Decision Making in Palliative and End-of-Life Care in the ED.

A special issue of *Academic Emergency Medicine*, titled *Proceedings of the 2016 AEM Consensus Conference: Shared Decision Making in the Emergency Department* includes an article that specifically mentions POLST as an end-of-life care planning tool that may benefit Emergency Department (ED) patients. The focus of the article, *Shared Decision Making to Support the Provision of Palliative and End-of-Life Care in the Emergency Department: A Consensus Statement and*

Research Agenda, was to identify key research questions that must be explored in order to improve palliative and end-of-life care for ED patients. [View online](#).

National POLST Paradigm News in Brief

Congratulations to both Arkansas and Arizona for progress in moving their respective POLST Programs forward. In Arkansas, the day after its acceptance by the Senate, the House Public Health Committee unanimously approved Senate Bill 356, which allows for the establishment of Arkansas POLST. [View legislative details of Arkansas SB 356](#). In Arizona, the Department of Health Services Emergency Medical Services Council adopted a revised EMS protocol, which newly includes honoring POLST Forms. [Learn more about the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare](#)

[Association](#), which is leading the development of AzMOST, Arizona's version of POLST. [Read more about both states' developments.](#)

Save the date! POLST Toolkit Webinar Series starts 4/13! The first of a series of webinars on *Using the POLST Paradigm to Honor Patient Wishes Across the Care Continuum* will be aired, this one focused on *POLST in the Primary Care Setting*, on Thursday, April 13, 2017, at 2 pm ET / 1 pm CT / noon MT / 11 am PT. For more info, [subscribe to this newsletter](#), email us at toolkit@polst.org, or [visit our Toolkit webpage](#), which we will continue to update.

National POLST Paradigm presented at SWHPN and AAHPM, next will present at ASA Aging in America conference. In late February, the National POLST Paradigm 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 and awareness of POLST were encouraging signs that more and more health care professionals know about the POLST Paradigm. We will also present at the American Society on Aging Aging in America Conference in March. Please come and meet with us! [More info.](#)

National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) Week is coming next month! NHDD is April 16 each year. The year 2017 marks NHDD's 10th anniversary, however, so, in 2017, *a whole week from April 16 to 22*, 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. 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 Online Web Forum. The National POLST Paradigm recently launched an online forum for POLST Program Leaders and those interested in developing regional POLST Programs. This forum is intended to be a place where health care professionals can ask questions about the POLST Paradigm in seeking fruitful discussion about best practices. Does this sound like this would benefit you? [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.

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.](#)

Still time to apply to volunteer and receive discounted registration at ASA Aging in America conference. [Volunteers who work one day of the conference can register at 50% off the regular fees](#) and experience the other four days as they wish. Conference dates are March 20-24 in Chicago. In addition, full-time student members who volunteer for a day can attend the conference without paying a fee. [More about the Student Volunteer Program.](#) (These offers won't apply retroactively to those who are already registered and conference presenters are not eligible.)

