



	POLST Paradigm Form	Advance Directive
Type of Document	Medical Order	Legal Document
Who Completes the Document	Health care professional (which health care professional can sign varies by state)	Individual
Who Should Have One	Any seriously ill or frail individual (regardless of age) whose health care professional wouldn't be surprised if he/she died in the year	All competent adults
What Document Communicates	Specific medical orders	General treatment wishes
Can this Document Appoint a Surrogate Decision-Maker?	No	Yes
Surrogate Decision-Maker Role	Can engage in discussion and update or void form if patient lacks capacity	Cannot complete
Can Emergency Personnel Follow this Document?	Yes	No
Ease in Locating / Portability	Patient has original; a copy is in patient's medical record. A copy may be in a state registry (if state has one).	No set location. Individuals must make sure surrogates have most recent version.
Periodic Review	Health care professional responsible for reviewing with patient or surrogate.	Patient is responsible for periodically reviewing.