

National POLST Paradigm

Forum Topic of the Month

What is the biggest area(s) of confusion with your POLST form?

Please share your experiences by [discussing on our Forum thread](#).

About the Forum: The National POLST Forum is a great way to discuss any POLST topic anytime with colleagues locally or across the nation. It is a closed online discussion board for POLST advocates and health care professionals participating in their state POLST Program (it is **not** a patient or caregiver forum). To request access, please email us at info@polst.org, giving us your full name, title/organization and state in which you practice.



Featured News



Bud Hammes, PhD, honored for lifetime contributions to advance care planning nationwide

On October 25, at the [Respecting Choices NSTE 2018 conference](#), Bud Hammes, PhD, was presented with a surprise Lifetime Achievement award to recognize and celebrate his career-long impact on advance care planning. Linda Briggs praised Dr. Hammes for his many contributions, but most of all his vision about the power of advance care planning, declaring it to be "now the gold standard. Every program created in the last ten years has been modeled after [Bud's] vision." [Read more about Dr. Hammes's history with the](#)

[POLST Paradigm](#). [Read more about Dr. Hammes](#).

Featured Resource



New guidance by National POLST Paradigm identifying those who are appropriate for POLST

On November 7, the National POLST Plenary Assembly Executive Committee approved new guidelines for health care professionals as to whom is POLST appropriate: These guidelines were built through consensus of members of the National POLST Research & Quality Assurance Committee, Program Standards Committee, and other leaders. Thanks to the many who participated in the iterative discussions and refinements that took place over the last year in finalizing this work. [Download PDF](#) or view our [policies web page](#).

Featured Resource



New POLST Toolkit for Quality Assurance and Quality Indicators

A new Quality Indicator Toolkit is available, created by the National POLST Paradigm's Research & Quality Assurance Committee. It describes several basic measurements (or indicators) of quality of one's POLST program, and provides three ways to complete each measure. This toolkit is intended to help individuals or organizations interested in quality assurance activities (not research), particularly if they have limited funds or little/no research experience. [Read more about QA toolkits](#).

Featured Research



"Changes Over Time in the Oregon POLST Registry: A Study of Two Decedent Cohorts"

Dana Zive, MPH, Valerie Jimenez, Erik Fromme, MD, MCR, and Susan Tolle, MD, published a study in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. Data were compared between two cohorts (one from 2010-2011 and another from 2015-2016) from the Oregon POLST Registry. Differences between the 2 cohorts were interpreted as changes [related to POLST utilization] over time. Based on the findings, the authors recommend reevaluating the criteria for identifying those who are appropriate for POLST. [View online](#).

National POLST Paradigm News in Brief

POLST News

Minnesota POLST program endorsed by the National POLST Paradigm on November 7, 2018.

Congratulations, Minnesota! View [POLST Map web page](#) or [download POLST Program Status](#) (PDF) with info about all U.S. POLST Programs.

POLST Founders Story added to the National POLST Paradigm website. How did the POLST Paradigm start? Through the vision and dedication of several key individuals who cared deeply. [Read the POLST Founders Story.](#)

Kudos to POLST Paradigm supporters:

PREPARE™ for your care, a patient-oriented website that informs and aids patients in taking control of their own advance care plans, has updated its website FAQs to include essential points about the POLST Paradigm. Thank you, PREPARE™! [View FAQs.](#)

Kimberly Paul, of Death by Design, is launching her *Live Well, Die Well* National Tour, the theme of which is: *Bridging the Gap one state, one community, one person at a time.* [View Tour Stops.](#) [Learn more about Death by Design.](#)

Resources:

Bringing Advance Care Planning Conversations to Your Congregation, a series of webinar recordings brought to you by The Conversation Project, highlight 6 different topics on concern to faith leaders who want to encourage conversations about advance care planning. [Learn more and view online.](#)

The American Bar Association's Advance Directives: Counseling Guide for Lawyers recently published. Described by the John A. Hartford Foundation as "a new resource [that] will help more people ensure that their wishes are known and carried out if faced with serious illness or the end of life," the ABA explains it "is designed to assist lawyers and health care professionals in formulating end-of-life health decision plans that are clearly written and effective." [Read more.](#)

