

National POLST

Addressing COVID-19 and the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2

Forum Topics of the Month

POLST completion without physical signatures.

(1) **Verbal consent for POLST.** *"I am wondering whether a POLST is ever valid without a patient's physical signature."*
[Discuss and view the thread.](#)

(2) **Use of DocuSign for POLST.** *"As we are moving to virtual discussions, the question of having POLST signed by DocuSign came up. Any concerns?"* [Discuss and view the thread.](#)

About the Forum: This is not a patient or caregiver forum. The National POLST Forum is a closed online discussion board for POLST advocates and health care professionals participating in their state POLST Program (active programs only). To request access, email info@polst.org, giving us your full name, title/organization and state in which you practice.

National POLST Resources

Basics about POLST:

- [Intended Population & Guidance for Health Care Professionals](#)
- [Appropriate POLST Form Use Policy](#)

For Health Care Professionals and Facilities:

- [Completing POLST Forms in Crisis Standards of Care](#)
- [COVID-19 Statement](#)
- [Long Term Care Facility Guidance](#)

For Patients:

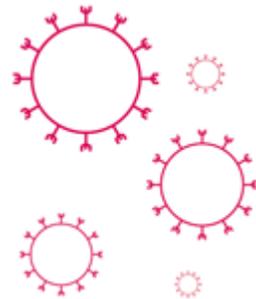
- [Getting Ready to Talk About POLST](#)
- [What Your Completed POLST Form Means](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

- [Electronic POLST](#)
- [For Health Care Professionals](#)
- [For Patients](#)

Other POLST Resources

- Oregon Health & Science University Center for Ethics:
 - [Communication skills for confirming previous POLSTs](#) (18 min video)
 - [Pocket Card for discussing previous POLSTs](#) (PDF)
- Respecting Choices:
 - [Proactive care planning for COVID-19](#) (3-page PDF guide)
 - [Proactive care planning for COVID-19](#) (26 min video)



Resources from our Partners

- The John A Hartford Foundation: [COVID-19 Resources for Older Adults, Family Caregivers and Health Care Providers](#)
- Respecting Choices: [COVID-19 Resources](#)
- Colorado Program for Patient Centered Decisions: [Life Support During the COVID Pandemic](#) (PDF)
- National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization: [COVID-19 Information](#)
- The Center to Advance Palliative Care: [COVID-19 Response Resources](#)
- The Center to Advance Palliative Care: [COVID-19 Response Training](#)
- VitalTalk: [COVID-Ready Communication Skills](#)

View this list of resources online at www.polst.org/covid

Featured Articles



The Importance of Advance Care Planning and DNR during COVID-19

"The COVID-19 pandemic is challenging health care systems worldwide and raising important ethical issues, especially regarding the potential need for rationing health care in the context of scarce resources and crisis capacity. Even if capacity to provide care is sufficient, one priority should be addressing goals of care in the setting of acute life-threatening illness, especially for patients with chronic, life-limiting disease." [Continue reading online.](#)



Framework for Rationing Ventilators and Critical Care Beds during COVID-19

"As the COVID-19 pandemic intensifies, shortages of ventilators are likely imminent in the US. In ordinary clinical circumstances, all patients in need of mechanical ventilation because of potentially-reversible conditions receive it, unless they or their surrogates decline. However, there are mounting concerns in many countries that this will not be possible and that patients who otherwise would likely survive if they received ventilator support will die because no ventilator is available." [Continue reading online.](#)

