

# National POLST

## Forum Topic of the Month

We continue to have a lot of questions about telehealth and POLST. Join the forum conversation to share what is going on in your state:

- (1) Telehealth ACP conversations, Verbal Orders and Verbal Consent During COVID-19? [View thread.](#)
- (2) Use of DocuSign for POLST. [Discuss and view 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](mailto:info@polst.org), giving us your full name, title/organization and state in which you practice.

## Featured News



### C-TAC webinar, AMDA podcast feature POLST during COVID-19

On April 14, the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care hosted a webinar featuring National POLST and Respecting Choices, in which Amy Vandembroucke and Stephanie Anderson described Advance Care Planning tools designed to help those on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 7, Karl Steinberg and Amy Vandembroucke were featured in an AMDA-on-the-Go podcast focusing on POLST. [Watch C-TAC webinar](#) (YouTube, 58 min incl questions). [Listen to the AMDA podcast](#) (39 min).

## Featured Resources



### National POLST COVID-19 Resources

National POLST continues to update our COVID-19 resources. We've added many new resources both of our own and from other sources. These include: Medicare/Medicaid updates; resources specific to long-term care facilities, EMS, and nursing homes; POLST FAQs; and approaches, tips, and scripts for having a goals of care conversation during the COVID-19 pandemic. View the [National POLST COVID resources](#) page.

## Featured Article



### A Video Decision Aid to Reduce Decisional Conflict in POLST Decision-Making

Co-authored by Woody Moss, this study from the *Journal of Palliative Care* discusses the use of a video as a decision-making aid for patients considering POLST. Overall, the use of the video was found acceptable by patients in the study, who agreed that it seemed unbiased and reported that it increased their knowledge and confidence in POLST. [View article](#) (open access).

## News in Brief

**Jessica Zitter explains advance directives in the context of COVID-19**, answering many listener questions on NPR's *All Things Considered*, broadcast April 22. Thanks, Dr. Zitter, for mentioning the value of POLST! Dr. Zitter is a critical and palliative care specialist. [Listen to the recording](#) (8 min).

**Free National Policy Forum (virtual) on Emerging Policy Changes in the Age of COVID-19**, hosted by the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care, will focus on three key themes affecting the serious illness

care movement in light of the COVID-19 pandemic: The Moment We Are In, What's It Going to Take? and The Near Future. [Read more and register now.](#)

**Many webinars are free in support of COVID-19 challenges.** The Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC) and the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California are offering free webinars in the effort to support health care professionals, caregivers, patients and families during the pandemic. View and learn more about [CTAC webinars](#) or [CCCC webinars](#).

**Free online courses in palliative care through June 30,** offered by the CSU Palliative care. In some cases, CME are available. [Learn more.](#)

**AMDA offers webinar on POLST, ACP and COVID-19: What LTC Facilities Should Be Doing and How.** For \$99, learn what POLST is, where it fits within the advance care planning spectrum, how to use POLST in long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and identify resources that are available to help. CME available. [Learn more.](#)

**C-TAC released the full version of a report** designed to identify strategies that could be used to boost the use of advance care planning, a practice that is now more important than ever as we face the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate their inclusion of POLST and the opportunity to provide input to the report. [View the report](#) (PDF).

**Facebook Slow Medicine group.** National POLST extends a warm thank you to the Slow Medicine Facebook group for providing a supportive online community setting for discussing health care needs and issues for those who are not necessarily seeking or who may clearly want to avoid aggressive medical treatments. [Visit the Slow Medicine group](#) (closed group, requires a "join" request).

