

# National POLST

## Forum Topic of the Month

### Your feedback wanted on our Draft Trauma Policy!

We are following up our summer survey about POLST & Trauma Use with a draft policy created by the Program Standards Committee. Please take time to review and consider how this would apply and work in your state and provide feedback to your peers. [View and comment online.](#)

**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



### National POLST partners with Naveon, adding videos to revised website

We have fully revised our [website for patients, caregivers and the public](#)! Many thanks to [Naveon](#) for providing animated videos, which help explain advance care planning for the seriously ill and frail, on specific topics such as: What is CPR?, Devices Found in the ICU, and Feeding Tubes. This was a yearlong project that would not have been possible without feedback from the Slow Medicine Facebook group volunteers, Education Committee members, many of our national partners, including Respecting Choices, C-TAC, and The Conversation Project, support from The John A. Hartford Foundation and the generous donation of videos from Naveon! [See press release.](#)

## Featured Resource



### New Directory of POLST Programs on the National POLST website

Especially for the patients and the public, we've made it even easier to find out who the POLST leaders are everywhere in the U.S. You can view the contacts for all 50 states and D.C. together, or select just one POLST Program to view, share, or print the information. [View the directory of POLST Programs.](#) (Our [map page](#) for health care professionals is still online, too. This contains more administrative, legal, and programmatic detail.)

## Featured Research



### How COVID changed Advance Care Planning: Insights from West Virginia

The West Virginia Center for End of Life published an article in the *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* about use of their e-Directive Registry during the pandemic. Calls, form submissions, and requests for these documents (including POLST forms) all increased relative to the previous several years (excepting the years in which new forms were introduced, which caused abnormally high submission rates). "COVID-19 resulted in a new sense of urgency regarding advance care planning." [View online](#) (free for 1 yr).

## News in Brief

### POLST News

**On July 7, 2020, a new law passed in Oregon** saying a health care facility cannot require POLST as condition of admission and cannot discriminate against patients in any way based on POLST status. National POLST applauds this law; it enforces the tenet that POLST should [always be voluntary](#) (never required of a patient). View the [basics about POLST](#) at the National POLST website. View legislative [details](#)

[about SB 1606](#), the law that was passed in Oregon.

**On September 22, 2020, California issue an All Facilities Letter** saying a health care facility should seek to confirm patients' treatment preferences but cannot require them to create advance care planning documents. POLST cannot be required as a condition of admission. [View online](#).

**Congratulations, Charissa!** National POLST has updated her position title to Communications Strategist and IT Manager. This title more accurately reflects all the amazing work Charissa does for National POLST. Thank you for all that you do, especially when so much of it is behind the scenes, keeping things functional and making us look good. (Amy especially thanks you — without you National POLST wouldn't be where it is today.) [Read Charissa's bio](#).

### Upcoming POLST Webinars

**Wednesday, October 14 (TODAY)—California POLST Registry: Project Status, Update, and Future**, hosted by the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California, presented by Judy Thomas, JD, and Rim Cothren, PhD. Noon to 1 pm. PT. [Learn more and register](#).

**Wednesday, November 18—Avoiding conflicts between Advance Directives and POLST Forms.** In many states, legislation does not adequately resolve which document should be followed if an advance directive and POLST do not agree. Learn from Arizona POLST leaders Sandy Severson and Vicki Buchda how their coalition successfully navigated this problem through education and promotion of alignment of all advance care planning documents. [Register now](#).

**Wednesday, December 9—Webinar: How We Adopted and Are Using the National POLST Form.** Three states—Arizona, Maine, and New Hampshire—have officially adopted the National POLST Form, and many others are considering doing so. Learn from the POLST leaders in these states what it took and what lessons they can share. We will have ample time for your questions. [Register now](#).

### Advocacy

**NHPCO Urges HHS, Congress to Support Community-Based Palliative.** Jointly signed by dozens of national and state organizations including National POLST, this letter is an appeal to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop and implement a community-based palliative care demonstration through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). [View letter](#) (PDF). [View all letters](#) of support from National POLST.

**Conversations on COVID-19: Impacts on Communities of Color.** This series of short videos from National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) features pairs of health care leaders as they discuss aspects of health disparities on COVID-19 outcomes. Finding from the NASEM in-depth report on Social Determinants of Health are also referenced and provided online. [View the videos to learn more](#).

### Other Upcoming Events

**Monday October 26 and Monday, November 2—NASEM Workshop on Advance Care Planning**—This virtual workshop is part of the series of workshops developed by the NASEM Roundtable on Quality Care for People with Serious Illness, a follow-up to the IOM report Dying in America. POLST Leaders Pat Bomba, Susan Hickman, Hillary Lum, and others will serve as moderators and panelists. [Learn more and register](#).

**Tuesday, October 27 through Friday, October 30—The Coalition to Transform Advance Care (C-TAC) National Summit on Advanced Illness Care** will be held virtually this year. [Learn more and register](#).

### Other Webinars and Meetings

**Ongoing—Free Virtual Office Hours on Communications Coaching and more** The Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) continues to offer office hours during the COVID-19 pandemic. Free and open to all, many are focused on communications coaching, examining real case scenarios. Others deal with a broad range of topics such as resiliency, pediatric palliative care, telehealth, and moral distress in the time of COVID-19. [Learn more and register](#).

**Respecting Choices Virtual Advance Care Planning Webinar: Best Practice for Crisis and Beyond** You're invited to watch this webinar recording to learn about what is different when preparing for, having, and following up after a "virtual" ACP conversation. A one-hour discussion among experienced program leaders, hosted by Respecting Choices. [Watch the webinar](#).

**The C-TAC National National Policy Forum** was held online on June 24. C-TAC is allowing anyone to register to listen to the recorded sessions free of charge. [Read more](#) and [register to get access](#).

**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. [Learn more](#).



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