

# National POLST

## Forum Topics of the Month

### (1) Should we say "patient" or "person"?

Our messaging about POLST to the public needs to be easily understood and relatable. In our outreach and education, should we use the term "patient" or "person"? Learn why we have used "patient" and [weigh in on this topic by end of December](#) so it can be discussed at our January Plenary Assembly meeting!

### (2) Your feedback still wanted on our Draft Trauma Policy!

Feedback is needed on our draft POLST & Trauma Use policy. Please take time to review and consider how this would apply and work in your state and provide feedback to your peers. [Please give feedback by November 13](#) so that the Program Standards Committee can discuss at their November 16 meeting.

**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.

**Thank you to all POLST Programs who participated in our October Plenary Assembly Meeting!** Your participation shapes the future of National POLST! View list of [Plenary Assembly members](#) (PDF). View map of actively [participating POLST Programs](#) (PDF).

## Featured News



### Check out our new Incentives and Quality Assurance Policy!

On October 21, the Plenary Assembly approved a new policy supporting reimbursement and quality assurance measures for quality advance care planning conversations and opposing incentives based on POLST form completion. The policy also offers quality indicators for appropriate documentation. View the [Incentives and Quality Assurance policy](#) (PDF). View all of our policies at our [Policies web page](#).

## Featured Resource



### Webinar 11/18: Making POLST work when legislation is less than ideal

In many states, legislation does not adequately resolve whether an advance directive or POLST form should be followed if the two 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](#). You may also view our newly [updated Legislative Guide](#) (PDF).

## Featured Research



### POLST Concordance in Nursing Homes - *Journal of General Internal Medicine*

Susan E. Hickman, PhD, and others published a study examining concordance of POLST orders across 40 Indiana nursing homes. Residents with POLST forms were three times more likely to have orders that matched their current treatment preferences compared to residents who did not have a POLST form. Orders matched current preferences in 59% of

residents with POLST forms compared with 35% of residents without POLST forms. [View online](#) (limited access).

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## News in Brief

### POLST News

**National POLST Legislative Guide updated!** This guide addresses the most common legal and regulatory issues among states implementing POLST Programs; provides preferred approaches to legal/regulatory questions; and provides legislative tips, links to National POLST policies and guidance, strategies and other considerations. [View the Legislative Guide](#) (PDF).

### POLST Webinars

**Register now! Wednesday, December 9—Webinar: How We Adopted and Are Using the National POLST Form.** Three states—Arizona, Maine, and New Hampshire—have 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](#).

**Recording available for NASEM Workshops on Advance Care Planning.** This 2-part workshop, developed by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, was a follow-up to the Institute of Medicine report *Dying in America*. POLST Leaders Pat Bomba, Susan Hickman, Hillary Lum, and others served as moderators and panelists. [Learn more about the first](#) and [second webinars](#). Watch the [first webinar on YouTube](#).

### 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 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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