

National POLST

Forum Topics of the Month

We have more than one topic relating to POLST and code status:

- [When the Emergency Department hesitates to write code status](#)
- [CPR choice for people with implanted defibrillators](#)

We encourage you to [view these topics and discuss](#) on the Forum.

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.

Featured News



West Virginia has *adapted* the National POLST Form!

West Virginia has updated their form, using the National POLST form and making only those edits necessary to comply with WV laws and regulations. They are the first state to adapt the national POLST form in this way! National POLST's mission is to achieve consistency among state POLST programs and we applaud West Virginia for modeling this approach. We encourage other states to consider the same, if adopting the form is not possible. [View WV POST Form](#). View National POLST [Resource Library](#).



New York Times Article Emphasizes the Need for POLST Education

Paula Span's [New York Times article](#) illustrates how patients and families can be harmed when a POLST form is not honored. A good conversation and clear documentation are NOT enough. We must also have systems in place that enable providers to easily see if a patient has a POLST form, and require health care professionals to follow POLST orders. [View Press Release](#) (PDF).

Featured Resources



February 11: Experiences in Re-Housing POLST Programs Webinar

On February 11, join leaders from Georgia, Idaho and North Carolina as they share their experiences in re-housing their POLST programs. This is an informal presentation in which we will provide plenty of time for participant questions. Speakers include: Richard Cohen and Paula Sanders (GA), Rick Bassett (ID) and Linda Darden (NC). [Register now!](#)



March 16: Webinar on Branding, Web and Social Media Tips for POLST Programs

On March 16, Charissa Yang, Communications Strategist and IT Manager of National POLST, will discuss her favorite tips share a few best practices for managing Websites, Branding and Social Media that are applicable to POLST programs and other non profits. Time for Q&A will be provided. [Register now.](#)

Featured Research



End-of-Life Practice Patterns in Head and Neck Cancer

Vukkadala, Fardeen, Ramchandran, and Divi, authored a research study in *The Laryngoscope*. End-of-life (EOL) care in head and neck cancers has been little explored. This study found that 54% of patients had a POLST form or advance directive, and goals of care conversations were strongly correlated with referrals and enrollment in palliative care and hospice. [View online](#) (limited access).



The Role of Regional and State Initiatives in Nursing Home ACP Policies

Fu, Agarwal, Estrada *et al* authored a study in *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*. They recognized “a need to support efforts encouraging antibiotic stewardship in nursing homes” as that can help enhance Advance Care Planning and infection management procedures. As mentioned on page 28 of our [POLST Form Guide for Professionals](#), we need more research like this to inform whether antibiotics should be a separate section on the form. [View online](#) (limited access).

News in Brief

Program updates!

West Virginia 2020 Annual Report released. The 2020 Annual Report for the WV Center for End-of-Life Care is offered in two formats: (1) quick presentation and (2) the full report. [Learn more and download](#) the reports (bottom of page).

California, Pennsylvania and Tennessee POLST program endorsements were all reaffirmed January 25th (endorsed programs are reviewed by the Program Standards Committee every 3 years).

Maine and National POLST received a grant from The Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation and the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation to identify and test ways to improve POLST conversations and use in rural communities using telemedicine.

POLST Webinars

POLST Technology Webinar series starting in April!

We will have our first technology webinar on April 13 at 3:30 pm ET. It will be an overview of the Technology Guide and Process — details will be coming next month.

Watch: How We Adopted and Are Using the National POLST Form

On December 9, leaders from three states—Arizona, Maine, and New Hampshire—discussed how they adopted the National POLST Form, what it took and lessons learned. [View webinar recording](#) (YouTube, 60 min including questions). [See all our webinars](#) at our webinars page.

Other Resources

NEW! Updated Conversation Starter Guides from The Conversation Project! Designed to help you have ‘the conversation’ with the important people in your life about care through the end of life. (Thanks to the IHI for involving Amy Vandenbroucke in the review of these guides!) [Read more and access downloadable PDFs](#) in English, Spanish and Chinese.

Advocacy

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.](#)

