

# National POLST

## Forum Topic of the Month

### Digital Media & Branding Webinar from March

On March 23, Charissa Yang, Communications Strategist and IT Manager of National POLST, discussed tips and a few best practices for managing Websites, Branding and Social Media that are applicable to POLST programs and other non profits. Resources mentioned in the video are also provided in this post. [Watch the video 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](mailto:info@polst.org), giving us your full name, title/organization and state in which you practice.

## Featured News



### National POLST Maps and Charts updated!

Many thanks to all the state programs who responded to our request for reviews of their respective programs' data found on our [Map web page](#) (for health care professionals) and our [Directory of POLST Programs](#) (for the public/patients). This is a once-a-year undertaking and we greatly appreciate everyone's effort in helping to make all our documents and website information as accurate as possible.

## Featured Resource



### Tuesday, April 13 (TODAY!) Webinar: Overview of POLST Technology Project

Join Amy Vandenbroucke, Rick Bassett and Dr. Balu Natarajan (Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care) on the first webinar of the five-part series promoting the National POLST Technology Guide. This session is an overview of POLST and its role in advance care planning. The next webinar in the series, on May 18th, will discuss how EMS uses POLST orders and how technology plays a role. [Register now!](#) View the [list of webinars](#) (PDF), visit the [Technology Guide web page](#), or view our [webinars page](#).

## Featured Research



### Hickman et al. explore POLST Concordance in two 2 studies in JAGS

Two papers about POLST concordance by Susan Hickman PhD and colleagues were published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. POLST was over 5 times as likely to be concordant when reflective of comfort-focused care. Discordance was associated with many key factors. Read the articles about POLST [discordance and concordance](#) and POLST [concordance](#) (limited access).

## News in Brief

### State POLST Registry Progress!

**Illinois makes progress towards POLST Registry.** POLST Illinois Committee members served on a multi-stakeholder advisory panel for the Illinois Department of Public Health to develop a report on the feasibility of a statewide POLST registry. [View the report](#) with letter to the Illinois General Assembly.

**The Oregon POLST Registry** released its 2020 Annual Report, describing a year of unprecedented challenges, record numbers of requests for POLST records, and significant technological upgrades. [View](#)

[their reports](#) and learn more about the [Oregon POLST Registry](#).

### National Events

**What are you doing for National Healthcare Decisions Day?** Annually, NHDD falls on April 16th, one day after taxes are traditionally due — memorably, thanks to the quotation, "Nothing is certain but death and taxes." Many POLST leaders make plans to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning on NHDD. How about you? [Learn more](#).

**The C-TAC National Policy Summit is virtual and free this May 12th.** The C-TAC Policy Forum offers changemakers an insider-view of federal serious illness care policies that they can leverage to drive change in their communities. By holding the event virtually and free of charge, C-TAC draws diverse attendees across industries with a wealth of insight into the issues facing people with serious illness. [Read more!](#)

### Other Resources

**New course launched by AAP about palliative care for pediatric patients.** Developed with input from the [Center to Advance Palliative Care \(CAPC\)](#), the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) and [Courageous Parents Network \(CPN\)](#) has launched a *Talking About Serious Illness* course. Available through [EQIPP on the AAP website](#), this course will help facilitate open and honest conversations with parents or other family members, when a child is living with a serious illness.

**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.

**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.](#)

