

National POLST

Forum Topic of the Month

Ask a National POLST Advisor!

Thank you to all our Advisors for introducing themselves at the April Plenary Assembly Meeting! Here's a way to contact them to ask a question: Hop onto our [Forum thread dedicated to this purpose](#).

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



National POLST Guidance on Severe Trauma released

We've released a statement clarifying what is meant by "severe trauma" and whether POLST orders should be applicable for a person being treated for severe trauma. Please view this guidance on our [Policies, Statements, and Recommendations](#) web page, or view the [Guidance](#) (PDF) directly. This statement was approved April 21, 2021 by the National POLST Plenary Assembly.

Featured Resource



Tech Webinar 2 of 5 (May 18) - When someone dials 911: how EMS uses POLST

Learn how EMS actually uses POLST forms in the field. Discover why technology is a challenge for EMS, including QR codes and phone apps. [Register](#).

Tech Webinar 3 of 5 (June 15) - Interoperability: sharing POLST across systems.

An overview of the HL7 POLST CDA data standard. Learn about FHIR, and how it relates to POLST technological interoperability. [Register](#).

Read about the POLST Tech Webinar Series: View [Technology Guide](#) web page, or [webinars series](#) PDF.

Featured Research



Palliative Care Education Needs of Internal Medicine Residents

Frydman et al. surveyed a pool of internal medicine interns and residents, finding that residents especially agreed that the palliative care, symptom management, serious illness communication and ACP are all very important, yet they lacked the skills and/or experience to support these activities. For example, many interns and residents had never completed a POLST form or ACP notes in a chart and almost a third did not feel comfortable with POLST forms. [View article](#) (limited access).



Oncologists in ACP: Getting by with a Little Help from Our Friends

Hausdorff and Swanson found that advanced lung cancer patients were not being provided comprehensive Advance Care Planning by oncologists, which is now recommended as the standard of care by the American Society for Clinical Oncology. When patients were found to have had a palliative care consultation it was not through oncology practices but via inpatient services working with hospitalists. [View article](#) (limited access).

News in Brief

What happened to "mature"?

The National POLST Map now shows which states are participating in National POLST activities, such as policymaking, guidance, standards, etc. There is a lessened emphasis on "endorsement" and "mature" status has been removed entirely. [Read more](#). View [Map](#) page or [Directory](#) page.

National POLST Strategic Plan Update - Call for Input

National POLST is updating its [Strategic Plan](#). If you have projects or ideas for what National POLST can or should be doing over the next 5 years to support consistent implementation of POLST nationally, please share with Amy (amy@polst.org) by May 14th.

Past POLST Webinars

Catching up on the POLST Tech Webinar series? The recording of the first webinar, Overview of the POLST Technology Guide Project, is available at no cost, and CEs are still available, too. Just input your name and email to register immediately before viewing. [View recording at our webinars](#) page.

National Events

The C-TAC National Policy Summit is virtual and free TODAY 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!](#)

