

National POLST

Forum Topic of the Month

Looking for health care systems measuring ACP and/or POLST quality

Help the National POLST Research & Quality Assurance Committee by providing examples of what health care systems in your state are doing, what data they are collecting, etc. Please share in [this forum thread](#).

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.

Congratulations on your retirement, Charlie! Thank You!

Charlie Sabatino, JD, is retiring, both as Director of the American Bar Association Commission of Law and Aging and as National POLST's Legal Advisor, effective January 30, 2022. In his announcement, he wrote, "I don't plan on leaving the field of aging and the law, but I do want to slow down, free up much more personal time to spend with family and re-engage in long-ignored personal interests." Charlie has served as Legal Advisor for National POLST since before the organization existed. He has helped shape the pathway of POLST in enumerable ways with his thoughtful advice and expertise. We will greatly miss him and wish him the best in his well-earned retirement. Learn more about Charlie's history with National POLST by reading our [Founders Story](#).



Featured News: POLST CDA Approved!



POLST CDA (Clinical Document Architecture) approved!

The POLST CDA (Clinical Document Architecture) document has been approved! National POLST has been working with the [Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology](#) (ONC), [HL7](#), [Lantana](#) and a number of stakeholders from across the country to create a POLST CDA. The POLST CDA sets a standard for creating a POLST form electronically. Using the POLST CDA means there is interoperability with POLST data with other systems using the POLST CDA. Every system/facility using the POLST CDA will then essentially speak the same language when sharing POLST form data.

Using the POLST CDA is voluntary. The POLST CDA will make it easier for any system or facility wanting to create an electronic POLST to do so in a way that is validated, especially for states using the national POLST form (though almost every state will be able to use this CDA); this can help a person's POLST transfer across EHRs, registries, and HIEs more easily, because all these systems would speak the same language using the POLST CDA.

The next steps are to incorporate comments, publish, and for a small group of initial implementers to start testing this CDA before it is released nationally later this year.

Featured Resource



New POLST Ethical Principles & Standards Guidance

Advance care planning is supported by a long history of ethical consensus and legal milestones recognizing an individual's right to accept or refuse medical care. The POLST process supports this by promoting shared decision-making leading to patient goal concordant care. This new [Ethical Principles & Standards Guidance](#) document describes how the ethical principles of autonomy, integrity, fidelity and responsibility, beneficence and nonmaleficence and justice play a role in the POLST process and includes standards for health care professionals and health care facilities, systems and organizations for POLST completion.

Featured Research



Recent Systematic Review of POLST: implications for further research

This review is thorough, makes a key point that observational POLST studies do not account for or explore the important differences between patients who complete a POLST and those who don't. Future research ought to research and compare these two groups of seriously ill patients and study their care outcomes. The authors also take issue with some of the 'unintended consequences of POLST' that are based on subjective interpretation of some of the data. [View on PubMed](#) (open access).

Other News

POLST EHR Guidance Updated Thank you to the Technology Committee for their work in updating our [Recommendations for Integrating POLST Forms with Electronic Health Records Guidance](#). This provides an overview of best practices for integrating POLST within EHRs.

Thank you Lori Bishop, MHA, BSN, RN! Lori is retiring from her position as Vice President of Palliative and Advanced Care at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization as well as from serving as National POLST's Hospice Advisor. Thank you, Lori, for all your service to National POLST! .

