

Information for Health Care Professionals

The POLST Paradigm: News and Events

Events:

Act 46: New Hawaii legislation on POLST Program

The state of Hawaii recently passed legislation directing their Department of Health to develop a POLST paradigm form and implementation program. Rachael S. Wong, MPH & Kenneth Zeri, RN, MS and colleagues helped facilitate this new statute.

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/act046_.pdf

News:

Withholding Resuscitation in Prehospital Care

“Perhaps the success of Oregon and other states in encouraging patients with serious chronic illnesses to make plans in advance will inspire nationwide acceptance of a version of POLST. No one with a chronic disease that will probably lead to his or her death should leave the doctor’s office or hospital without a discussion and document ation of his or her preferences for life-sustaining treatment, including resuscitation.”

Kellermann A, Lynn J. Withholding Resuscitation in Prehospital Care. Ann of Intern Med 2006; 144(9): 692-693.

Appropriate Use of Artificial Nutrition and Hydration - Fundamental Principles and Recommendations

“Problems with information transfer between institutions can affect all patients and are particularly common when nursing home-residents are transferred to short-term care settings. Nursing home and hospitals should develop effective documentation strategies, such as Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment forms, which ensure that a pateint’s preferences are clearly documented and readily available to guide care.”

Casarett D, Kapo J, Caplan A. Appropriate Use of Artificial Nutrition and Hydration - Fundamental Principles and Recommendations. NEJM 2005; 353(24): 2607-2612.

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News:

Use of POLST endorsed by National Quality Forum

On May 18, 2006 the National Quality Forum announced the endorsement of a framework for evaluating quality in palliative and hospice care. The framework included 38 preferred practices. Use of the POLST form was identified as a preferred practice in the framework to ensure that the patients' treatment goals are transferred across health care settings.

<http://www.qualityforum.org/news/prPalliativeendorsed05-18-06.pdf>