

Settings of skills:	For this program, POLST will be used in one hospital and nine long-term care, skilled nursing facilities		
Range of use:	See below		
Use by those under 18yrs:	TBD		
Distributed per month:	TBD	Distributed per year:	4,500

HISTORY: This project is part of a larger initiative undertaken with the Princeton HealthCare System to smooth transitions as frail elderly patients with multiple chronic and acute conditions traverse a variety of levels of care in their treatment trajectory. The overall initiative takes a three-tiered approach to improve integration and information exchange during care transitions:

- 1) Strengthening transitional communications by consulting with and training skilled nursing facility staff to implement the POLST form
- 2) Implementing a navigation program that will support patient transitions to the home, and
- 3) Implementing a data registry to improve and streamline electronic communication across systems.

New Jersey Goals of Care, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping frail older adults meet their healthcare goals, will provide POLST implementation training and consultation.

BARRIERS OVERCOME: Until this year, there was no state recognition of a unified POLST Paradigm form for in-patient facilities and emergency services. Implementing legislation is currently awaiting the Governor’s signature.

STATE LAW AND REGULATIONS: In June, the New Jersey State Legislature passed bill S-2197, which establishes a POLST Paradigm program in the Department of Health and Senior Services for the purpose of enabling patients in the State to indicate their preferences for health care through the use of a completed POLST form as a complementary measure to the use of an advance directive, or in lieu of an advance directive if the patient has not executed such a document. The Governor has not yet signed the legislation.

POLST IN THE HEALTH CARE SETTING:

Policies (hospitals, nursing homes, EMS, etc.): Policy revisions within the participating healthcare organizations to recognize the use of the POLST form is a condition of program participation.

Registry for POLST Paradigm Forms: Internal to the participating organizations.

MANAGEMENT:

Describe program management: POLST implementation and training will be managed by New Jersey Goals of Care.

Who will distribute forms: New Jersey Goals of Care

How will oversight of the program ensure quality: All partners will be expected to share data in the patient registry, as well as to participate in a mutually selected national benchmarking initiative such as Advancing Excellence in America’s Nursing Homes.

TRAINING:

Training for health care professionals: New Jersey Goals of Care will provide in-service training to staff within

all participating nursing homes and hospitals.

Training for the public and patients:

EVALUATION:

CQI projects and research: None to date.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

www.goalsofcare.org