

Program Description for: **LOUISIANA**

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Program Name: LaPOLST

State or Region: Louisiana

Area of Use: Statewide

Program Status:

- No Program (possibly state contacts)
- Developing Program
- Endorsed by National POLST Paradigm Initiative Task Force

Name of program / form: Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST)

Yes	No	Optional	POSSIBLE POLST PARADIGM COMPONENTS
X			1. Form has a uniform, standardized color
X			2. Decisions reflected in the form are medical orders that must be followed by emergency personnel in the field and emergency rooms.
X			3. The form accompanies the patient across care settings
X			4. CPR / DNR section
X			5. Levels of interventions for #3
X			6. Levels of interventions for #4
X			7. Feeding Tube
X			8. Antibiotics
X			9. Basis for orders
X			10. Person completing form
X			11. Physician / NP / PA signature
X			12. Physician / NP / PA name & office number
X			13. Patient / Legal agent signature
X			14. Designation of legal agent name and number
X			15. Space for review
X			16. Statement about leeway (<i>is the patient's surrogate provided authority to interpret the goals and preference at the time decisions are made?</i>)

EXTENT OF USE:

Start year: Not in use yet

Settings of skills: Plan to use state wide after legislative approval, development of educational materials and website

Range of use: Not yet

Use by those under 18yrs: Yes, with proper authorization

Distributed per month: Unknown

Distributed per year: Unknown

HISTORY:

Number one recommendation from the End of Life Work Group of the LA Health Care Redesign Collaborative which was formed after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There had been a ground swell of support for this type of document before the storm but even larger need is now known

BARRIERS OVERCOME:

Initial barriers included who would "house" the program....state or private/public partnership, maintain the website and educational activities, and the living will statutes in this state.

STATE LAW AND REGULATIONS:

Living will statutes as well as EMS rules

POLST IN THE HEALTH CARE SETTING:

Policies (hospitals, nursing homes, EMS, etc.):

Once adopted by the state as an acceptable end of life care document, the goal is to use across the state, across health care settings. EMS will be able to add the document as part of their treatment algorithm

Electronic Registry:

Will be housed Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum

Management:

LaPOST Coalition

Training for health care professionals:

Anticipate didactic as well as web based.

Training for the public and patients:

In the planning stages

CQI projects and research:

None as of yet