

The New Oregon POLST Registry: What You Need to Know About the Law

The Oregon POLST Registry just became law, providing first responders with access to POLST orders when the paper form is not available. This law does not require a patient to have a POLST form. However, when a patient elects to complete or revise a form, **the signing health care professional must submit the form to the Registry (unless the patient opts out of the Registry)**. This new requirement is anticipated to go into effect December 1, 2009. For more information see:

<http://www.ohsu.edu/polst/programs/OregonPOLSTRegistry.htm>

Here's what you need to know to ensure patient wishes for desired levels of treatment are honored:

Who should have the opportunity to have a POLST?

- Anyone with advanced progressive illness or frailty
- Any hospice patient

Why have a Registry and how does it work?

- Frequently POLST forms are not found immediately by EMS first responders
- First responders can call the Registry 24/7 when the paper form is not found immediately
- A secure and accurate database is housed at the OHSU Emergency Communications Center

What's needed on the form for the Registry?

- Use the June 2009 version for newly completed POLST forms
- Old forms are still valid. Please complete demographics information
- At a minimum, orders for Section A (preference for cardiopulmonary resuscitation)
- Health care professional's **legible** printed name, signature and date
- Patient/surrogate signature on back of form is strongly encouraged—[New!](#)
- Provide patient/surrogate the option not to have the form in the Registry

How are forms submitted and what follow up is provided by the Registry?

- Develop a procedure for office/facility staff to submit newly completed POLST forms to the Registry including:
 - Once completed, copy form—both sides
 - Give original to the patient
 - Fax copy to 503-418-2161 or mail to Oregon POLST Registry, Mail Code: CDW-EM, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd, Portland, OR 97239
- The Registry will provide sender with a confirmation of receipt
- The Registry will send the patient a “refrigerator magnet” with POLST ID number and confirmation for easy reference and display