

## Provider Orders for Life Sustaining

### Treatment

The diagnosis of a life-limiting condition can leave patients and their families with many questions. It is important for providers to discuss with them the facts about the illness, the kinds of treatment available, and what treatments will help, might help, and won't help. The WyoPOLST (Wyoming Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) exists to give patients with serious illness or frailty the ability to state their own preferences for end-of-life medical care in the event they become unable to communicate. The WyoPOLST form is transferrable across healthcare settings and enhances communication among all health care professionals with the patient at the center. The WyoPOLST form provides a context for guiding this important conversation. The conversation can be initiated by the patient, his/her family, or the patient's health care provider.

The POLST program is a process of evaluation and communication between a patient (or the patient's agent) and healthcare professional in order to ensure that healthcare providers understand the desires of the patient regarding medical treatment as the patient nears the end of life, convert the patient's goals and preferences for care into a set of medical orders on a POLST form that is portable across care settings to be complied with by all health professions, and provide the patient with a copy of the completed POLST form. Any adult who has the capacity to provide informed consent to, or refusal of, medical treatment may execute a POLST form. The POLST form is intended for people who are seriously ill or frail. Once executed, the POLST form becomes part of the patient's medical record, and moves with the patient.

The POLST form can be completed for any qualified patient, regardless of age. The POLST form can be revoked or changed at any time by the patient or his/her legal representative.

The POLST form is available to download on the Aging Division, Community Living Section's website here: <https://health.wyo.gov/aging/communityliving/polst/>

For questions, please contact the POLST Program Manager, Heather Welch, at (307) 777-7988.

The Department of Health has recently partnered with StickyJ Medical ID to provide supplementary POLST bracelets. While the POLST form remains free of charge, bracelets are available for purchase through StickyJ for \$27.90. More information about ordering the bracelet can be found on the Community Living Section's website.