

POLST in Action



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HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

POLST in the VA



- POLST = SAPO
- POLST note = Out of Hospital Orders Note
- Adoption of prevailing state rules mandated
- VA does not require licensure in the state of residence but POLST does
- Large number of PA's and NP's, even more resident physicians.
- CA POLST allows a licensed, resident physician to write a POLST but national VA policy allows R2 or above to write a DNR good for up to 24 hours.
- Requires a POLST be offered to patients who were DNR in hospital
- POLST flag not OK.

Ways to Get POLSTs Written in a Hospital



- Inpatient doctors (e.g. Hospitalists) like to write DNR orders. Link (electronically) the writing of a POLST to the writing of a DNR.
- Add POLST to the checklist that discharge planners and social workers use at the time of discharging a patient to a nursing home. Require that patients being sent to NH have been offered a POLST.
- Establish POLST centers in hospital palliative care program, geriatrics program, dialysis unit, others.

CPRS, the VA's EMR



Vista CPRS in use by: Schneider, Paul L (vista.west-la.med.va.gov)

ZZTEST A PATIENT (OUTPATIENT) Visit Not Selected Primary Care Team Unassigned
 000-00-8999 Mar 10, 1926 (85) Provider: SCHNEIDER, PAUL L

Flag VistaWeb Postings
 Remote Data WAD

Active Problems

- Bipolar II (MST)
- Anxiety
- Adult Sexual Abuse
- Congestive Heart Failure
- Open Wound Of Knee, Leg (EXC)
- Diabetes, Type II, Uncontrolled
- Dental Disorder Nec
- *Ascvd
- Chest Pain (ICD-9-CM 786.50)
- Mdd, Single, Moderate
- Prostate Cancer (IR)
- Chronic Airway Obstruction, Not E

Allergies / Adverse Reactions

- Rabies Vaccine
- Penicillin Vk, 250mg Tab
- Penicillin V Potassium
- Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim
- Insect Bite/Sting/Venom
- Ginseng
- Latex
- Cheese
- Strawberries
- Pollen
- Milk
- Xalatan 0.005% Oph Solution

Active Medications

- Digoxin (lanoxin) 0.125mg Tab
- Tablet Cutter
- Acetaminophen 500mg Tab
- Aspirin 325mg Tab
- Aspirin 325mg Ec Tab
- Acetaminophen 325mg Tab
- Omeprazole 20mg Ec Cap
- Ranitidine Hcl 150mg Tab
- Aspirin 81mg Chew Tab

Clinical Reminders

- *** REPORT REMINDER
- My Health/Vet Education
- (HCV F/U) Hepatic Lab T
- IHD Lipid Profile
- Diabetes Foot Exam
- Serum Creatinine & Urine F
- Diabetes - Hgb A1C

Category I Flags: 1 Item(s)

BEHAVIORAL

Category II Flags: 3 Item(s)

MRSA CARRIER
 POLST
 RESEARCH 3RD STUDY

Flag Name: POLST

Assignment Narrative:
 This patient has a POLST designating him DNR, comfort care only and no artificial nutrition by tube. Go to vista imaging to read the scanned form.

Flag Type: CLINICAL
 Flag Category: II (LOCAL)
 Assignment Status: Active
 Initial Assigned Date: DEC 10, 2010 13:32:08
 Approved by: SCHNEIDER, PAUL L
 Next Review Date: APR 26, 2038
 Owner Site: WEST LA VAMC (WEST LA VAMC)
 Originating Site: WEST LA VAMC (WEST LA VAMC)

Signed, Linked Notes of Title: PATIENT RECORD FLAG CATEGORY II - POLST

Date	Action	Author

Recent Lab Results

Type & Screen, Red Blood Cells 1 Unit(s) Stat	Vitals	Appointments/Visits/Admissions
T 97 F	Dec 22, 2011 08:01 (36.1 C)	Apr 26, 2012 09:00 Slo-Lab
P 80	Dec 22, 2011 08:01	Apr 25, 2012 09:00 Slo-Lab Cancelled By C
R 20	Dec 22, 2011 08:01	Mar 22, 2012 10:45 Sep-Audiograms Am/Pm
BP 120/80	Dec 22, 2011 08:01	Mar 20, 2012 08:30 Sep-Audiograms Am/Pm
HT 100 in	Dec 22, 2011 08:01 (254.0 cm)	Mar 15, 2012 13:00 Sep-Audiograms Am/Pm
WT 115 lb	Dec 22, 2011 08:01 (52.2 kg)	Jan 18, 2012 13:09 Slo-Telephone Follow-Up Pc
PN 0	Nov 30, 2011 15:05	Jan 18, 2012 13:06 Slo-Telephone Follow-Up Pc

Cover Sheet | Problems | Meds | Orders | Notes | Consults | Surgery | D/C Summ | Labs | Reports

start | Inbox - Microsoft O... | RE: right care at the... | FW: CCCC Annual C... | Microsoft PowerPoi... | CPRS - Patient Chart | 12:59 PM

VA DNR Note Template part 1



The screenshot displays the VistA CPRS interface. The main window is titled "Reminder Dialog Template: DO NOT RESUSCITATE-ATTENDING NOTE". The left sidebar shows a list of notes for patient "ZZTEST A PATIENT CHARLES (000-00-1125)". The main content area contains the following text:

Summary of Medical Condition:

[View DNR Corporate Policy](#) or [Withholding or Withdrawal of Life-Sustaining Treatment & Adv Directive](#)

THE DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR) ORDER IS JUSTIFIED BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS: (Check the appropriate condition)

- The patient is capable of understanding and making an informed judgement on the matter of DNR status. He or she has been informed of the reasons for the DNR Order, and provided with the critical information needed to make an informed judgement about DNR status. The patient accepts a DNR Order at this time.
- There is a POLST (Physician Order for Life Sustaining Treatment) form in effect, signed by a Physician licensed in the state of California that orders "DO NOT ATTEMPT RESUSCITATION".
- The patient is without decision making capacity, but a viable, previously executed Advance Directive (Living Will) supports a DNR Order in the current clinical circumstance.
- The patient is without decision-making capacity, but a viable, previously executed Advance Directive assigns Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care to a surrogate decision-maker who agrees to a DNR order at this time.

Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care:

Full Name: * [redacted]
Street Address: * [redacted]
City/State/Zip Code: * [redacted]
Telephone Number(s): * [redacted]- The patient is without decision making capacity and has no Advance Directive, but there is an appropriate surrogate decision maker (next of kin or close friend) available who agrees to a DNR order at this time.

Buttons: Visit Info, Finish, Cancel

Summary of Medical Condition:

THE DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR) ORDER IS JUSTIFIED BY THE FOLLOWING CONDITION:

next of kin

Orders: Do Not Resuscitate

System tray: 1:02 PM

VA DNR Note Template Part 2



VistA CPRS in use by: Schneider, Paul L. (vista.west-la.med.va.gov)

File Edit View Action Options Tools Help

ZZTEST A PATIENT CHARLES
000-00-1125

Reminder Dialog Template: DO NOT RESUSCITATE-ATTENDING NOTE

Directive, but there is an appropriate surrogate decision maker (next of kin or close friend) available who agrees to a DNR order at this time.

Surrogate Decision Maker-
[View Informed Consent Policy regarding Next Of Kin hierarchy](#)

Name: _____
Relationship: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____
Phone Number: _____

- The patient is without decision making capacity, but a previously executed outpatient or pre-hospital DNR order is known to exist.

- The patient is without decision-making capacity, has no Advance Directive, and there is no appropriate surrogate decision-maker available, but DNR is considered appropriate by the Chair of the Bioethics Committee or in his absence, the Chief of staff.

POLST INFO

Hospital policy requires that any inpatient with a DNR order be offered a POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) form. Forms are available from the case manager, at the Nurse's Station, and in Physician work rooms. The original should be kept with the patient and a photocopy given to social work for scanning. The POLST can be filled out by any healthcare provider and must be signed by the patient, if competent. If the patient is incompetent, the form can be signed by the patient's surrogate decision maker. The attending physician should also sign the POLST and fill in his/her state license number. Once the POLST form is completed, please enter an "Out of Hospital Orders" note in CPRS (which is an abbreviated template version of the POLST content). Any questions should be referred to the Ethics Advisory Committee Person on call (Dr. Paul Schneider at 323-573-9294 (cell) or x89016. If unavailable, Elissa Brom, CNS is backup at pgr 3041 or x40585).

POLST Status: Please select one

Patient/surrogate completed or in process of completing POLST on this admission

Previously completed POLST on file

Patient/surrogate declined POLST at this time

Patient/surrogate will be educated/approached regarding creating a POLST

Patient is not likely to be discharged from hospital. POLST discussion deferred.

Additional Comment(s):

Vist Info Finish Cancel

Summary of Medical Condition:

THE DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR) ORDER IS JUSTIFIED BY THE FOLLOWING CONDITION:
next of kin

Orders: Do Not Resuscitate

start [Taskbar icons] 1:04 PM