Oregon POLST Registry FAQs:
Emergency Health Care Professionals

What is the Oregon POLST Registry?
It is a secure electronic record of a patient's POLST orders. It serves as a **backup,** allowing emergency health care professionals treating a patient access to POLST orders *if* a paper POLST form cannot be found.

Why do I need to find and follow POLST orders?
Patients have the right to express their preferences regarding life-sustaining treatments.
The Scope of Practice for Emergency Medical Providers states, "An Oregon-certified First Responder or EMT, acting through standing orders, must respect the patient's wishes including life-sustaining treatments. Physician supervised First Responders and EMTs must request and honor life-sustaining treatment orders executed by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant if available."

When do POLST orders apply?
POLST orders apply any time EMS is called or the patient is transferred to the ED. However, a patient with decision-making capacity can request other treatment at any time. Patients with Comfort Measures Only usually do not want to go to the hospital, *unless comfort cannot be provided without transport.*
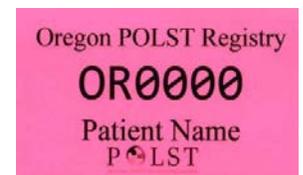
Are eSignatures and Verbal Orders Valid?
Yes! "Signed" means a physical signature, electronic signature or verbal order documented per standard medical practice. Refer to OAR 333-270-0030. Copies, faxes, and POLST forms on white paper are also valid.

How can EMS & Emergency Departments access the POLST Registry?
They may call the POLST Registry Hotline for immediate POLST form requests.

What patient information should I have available when calling the Registry Hotline?
- Full name
- Date of birth
- Registry ID
- Last 4 digits of SSN
- Gender
- Age
- Address

What is the POLST Registry ID?
It is a unique identifier assigned to each patient. The ID may be found on a magnet (pictured above) or sticker in the home or with the patients' personal effects.

What POLST information will the POLST Registry Hotline staff provide?
Staff can verbally relay Section A and B orders, additional order text, Registry ID, and the date the POLST form was signed. The POLST form can also be faxed to the emergency department that is, or will be, treating the patient. Please chart the call to the Registry and the orders received. If you are transporting a patient, you may ask the Registry to fax the POLST to the receiving hospital.

What if I have questions about the POLST orders?
Registry staff cannot interpret POLST orders. If there is a question about how to proceed with the POLST information provided, contact your On Line Medical Control (OLMC). Hospital staff should follow their standard protocols.

How do I contact the Oregon POLST Registry Office?
Phone: (503) 418-4083 | Toll free: (877) 367-7657 | Fax: (503) 418-2161 | polstreg@ohsu.edu
www.orpolstregistry.org | 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd. BTE234 Portland, OR 97239